STATE LIBRARY OF PENNSYLVANIA
3 0144 00132898 8

PY G-192.17/4
CLASS ~~P33.34~~ 46 BOOK
VOLUME 16-1945-46

PENNSYLVANIA
STATE LIBRARY

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016

https://archive.org/details/pennsylvaniagame00unse_12

# PENNSYLVANIA Game News

APRIL 1945

23834
1.6 c1

Ten Cents

# PENNSYLVANIA GAME NEWS

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION, HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

EDWARD MARTIN, GOVERNOR

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

Ross L. Leffler, *President* .....Pittsburgh
Robert Lamberton, *Vice-President* .....Franklin
Col. Nicholas Biddle .....Bethayres
G. I. Phillips .....Alexandria
Harold Moltz .....Williamsport
Dr. H. E. Kilgus .....Brockway
John C. Herman .....Dauphin
Dr. Carl B. Rosenkrans .....East Stroudsburg

Administrative Office

Seth Gordon .....*Executive Director*
R. A. McCachran .....*Assistant Director*

Division of Lands

W. Gard. Conklin .....*Chief*

Division of Accounting & Budget

N. E. Slaybaugh .....*Comptroller*

Division of Public Information

Leo A. Luttringer, Jr. .....*Chief*
*Editor,* Pennsylvania Game News

Training

W. M. Cramer .....*Supt. Training School*

Bureau of Field Operations

Division of Law Enforcement

W. C. Shaffer .....*Chief*

Division of Land Management

James N. Morton .....*Chief*

Division of Propagation & Research

Allan Studholme .....*Acting Chief*

Field Division Supervisors

Division "A"—M. J. Golden, 602 Penn Ave., West Reading, Pa.
Berks, Bucks, Chester, Dauphin, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon. Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, York.

Division "B"—Jay C. Gilford, Wyoming Ave. and Welles St., Forty Fort, Pa.
Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming.

Division "C"—Thomas F. Bell, 352 E. 3rd St., Williamsport, Pa.
Bradford, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga, Union.

Division "D"—William J. Davis, 327 Penn St., Huntingdon, Pa.
Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry.

Division "E"—M. E. Sherman, 1 E. Du Bois Ave., Du Bois, Pa.
Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, Potter.

Division "F"—Hayes T. Englert, 14 W. 1st St., 2d Floor, S. S. Oil City, Pa.
Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, Warren.

Division "G"—Rollin Heffelfinger, 405 Main Street, 2d Floor, McClellan Bldg., Irwin, Pa.
Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, Westmoreland.

## HOW TO SUBSCRIBE

RATES—$0.50 per year to residents of Pennsylvania, regardless of address. $1.00 per year for Non-Residents of Pennsylvania. (Out-of-State, District of Columbia, Canadian or Foreign.) Club rates are available to organizations presenting 10 or more subscriptions in a single order. Remittances by check or money order to be made payable to the Department of Revenue, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. CASH FORWARDED AT SENDER'S RISK. STAMPS NOT ACCEPTED. Your local Game Protector, County Treasurer or other Hunting License Issuing Agent will take your subscription; or you may forward it direct to the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.

Please report all changes of address promptly, sending both your old and new addresses.

Please address *all* communications to the Editorial Office.

Publication office, Cameron and Kelker Sts., Harrisburg, Pa.

Executive and editorial office, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.

Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, under Act of March 3, 1879.

Permission to reprint will be granted provided proper credit is given.

Mailed in conformity with P.O.D. Order No. 19687.

Vol. XVI No. 1

# EDITORIAL

April, 1945

## IN THIS ISSUE

★

**Review of the 25-Year State Game Land Purchase Program**
By W. Gard. Conklin

★

**Our Vital Duty To Conserve Natural Resources**
By James H. Duff

★

**She Laid an Egg**
By Jacob Bates Abbott

★

**"Dear Sirs"**
By Carey Lee

★

**The Mysterious Seventeen Year Locusts**
By Dr. A. B. Champlain

★

**The Farmer's Wood Bank**
By George H. Wirt

★

**Ditching for Muskrats**
By Frank C. Edminster

★

**Resolutions of the Federation**

★

**With Those In The Service**

★

**Cover of Otter and Trout**
By Jacob Bates Abbott

★

## The Brunner Bill

THROUGH the vigorous efforts of Governor Edward Martin and Attorney General James H. Duff, the final death knell to the Commonwealth's easy going policy on stream pollution is going to be sounded before many weeks have gone by.

House Bill No. 1 introduced by Mr. Charles H. Brunner, Jr., on January 15, is the outgrowth of the Governor's and Attorney General Duff's efforts to wipe out the unsanitary practice of contaminating public waters.

The Brunner Bill is the Administration's recommendation for amendments to the Pure Streams Act in 1937 and it has the teeth in it to accomplish its end without working undue hardship on anyone.

In essence it includes silt, coal mine solids, rock debris, dirt and clay from coal mines, collieries, breakers or processing operations among the material which may not lawfully be permitted to enter streams, in addition to other already outlawed polluting agencies.

It further authorizes the Sanitary Water Board, with the approval of the Governor and the Attorney General, to purchase and condemn easements and rights-of-way to transfer pollution from acid mine drainage of waters which were "clean waters" on or subsequent to the first day of January 1944, into other waters which are already polluted or unclean.

If ever a piece of legislation for the benefit of the whole people merited enactment this one does. Pure streams insure good water for domestic and industrial uses, better health, and more outdoor recreation. Polluted, unsanitary streams are the signposts of decay, death and desolation. If we continue to tolerate them by not supporting the Bill in question we shall justly deserve the reward we shall ultimately reap.

If you want the viewpoint of a real conservationist by all means read General Duff's article on page 4. It is being reprinted by permission from *Everybody's Weekly,* magazine of The Sunday *Philadelphia Inquirer.*

Photo courtesy The Pennsylvania Angler.
A tragic example of stream pollution in Pennsylvania. Smallmouth black bass—walleyed pike—muskellunge.

L315825

State Game Lands, except the refuges within them, are open to public shooting. Above are two ardent squirrel hunters attempting to bag a bushytai

Photo by Dr. Chas. S. Apgar.

**The first game refuge was established in Clinton County in 1905. A portion of this refuge is shown above.**

# REVIEW OF THE 25-YEAR STATE GAME LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM AND OTHER ASSOCIATED GAME MANAGEMENT AREAS

## By W. Gard. Conklin

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Two events of special interest to sportsmen, one giving appropriate recognition to the 25th Anniversary of the land purchase program, the other the proposed plan of creating a living memorial to the Honorable John M. Phillips, were published in last month's issue of the* GAME NEWS. *This month the first half of a review of some of the important events which led up to the acquisition of State Game Lands, progress and accomplishments of that program, and brief comments with respect to securing the use of other lands for game management purposes is presented.*

LAND!

To gain it, men have crossed oceans, braved savages, sacrificed their lives. They have worked and suffered, endured discomforts beyond description to secure it. It has been the cause of practically every war in history, including the present tragic conflict. For land is the life of everything that breathes upon the face of the earth!

Land!

In Pennsylvania 2,200,000 acres of land are covered by towns, industries, roads, etc. More than 14,500,000 acres are being used for agriculture and grazing. Forests comprise approximately 12,000,000 acres. Between two million and four million acres are classed as unproductive and include many marginal and submarginal farms as well as some land which should be forested.

For 25 years the Pennsylvania Game Commission has been purchasing forest land and unproductive farms for use as State Game Lands, and its accomplishments have produced a splendid heritage for present and future generations. But it has not been easy. Early Game Commissioners and cooperating sportsmen were pioneers in this work, and the obstacles confronting them were the obstacles that confront every pioneer—lack of money, lack of help, in fact lack of just about everything except courage and determination. Now, the 25th Anniversary is being observed.

The year 1945 represents not only the 25th Anniversary of the land purchase program, but also the 50th Anniversary of concerted efforts toward the conservation of Pennsylvania's wildlife resources, which began when the Legislature made provision for a Board of Game Commissioners in 1895.

The first Board was appointed in 1896, and its members lost little time in providing protection for game and fur-bearing animals, valuable insectivorous birds, and to a certain extent to control predatory animals. The passenger pigeon had already been exterminated and the numbers of many other wild creatures were sadly depleted when the early game laws were enacted. These laws in all probability prevented great economic loss to the public.

On July 8, 1898 Dr. Joseph Kalbfus was selected as first Secretary and Chief Game Protector. He was one of the earliest proponents of the game refuge idea and of the plan for sportsmen to purchase game lands for public benefit. He was an ardent lover of wild creatures and a naturalist of national renown.

Prior to his appointment as Secretary he had practiced law and at the time of the appointment was a practicing dentist. For more than five years Dr. Kalbfus served without pay, furnished his own travel expenses, and said that he did the work of the Chief Game Protector because he needed exercise!

The early commissioners were forced to do most of their pioneering on courage and de-

*(Continued on page 30)*

# OUR VITAL DUTY TO CONSERVE NATURAL RESOURCES


## By James H. Duff

### Attorney General of Pennsylvania


*Reprinted by permission from EVERYBODY'S WEEKLY, magazine of The Sunday Philadelphia Inquirer*

THE war is consuming every sort of material needed for its purposes at a rate beyond the imagination. In November 1944 the expenditures of the United States aggregated nearly $300,000.000 a day, an annual rate in excess of $100,000,000,000. Of this gigantic sum it is estimated that approximately 10 percent will represent the value of natural resources consumed, not by all the belligerents, but out of our own stockpile. Even the heedless will understand the meaning of a continuation of this dangerous shrinkage in our natural resources.

As a nation we have been reckless and prodigal in the use of our natural resources beyond measure. Even before the war the national timber supply was being consumed three times as fast as it was being replaced by new growth. The mounting demands of the war have resulted in a nation-wide depletion of our woodland that only a full calculation will depict in its vastness. But even the most casual observer of current happenings must now be aware of the vital necessity of a thoroughgoing program of conservation of our natural resources once the war is over.

Within the time of men, the great trackless desert of the Sahara in northern Africa once was green pasture land, much of the treeless waste of China once was tree-covered upland, our own western dust bowl once was a vast sea of prairie grass, many of the bare hills and eroded farmlands throughout the nation once supported splendid vegetation. These antithetical changes made by nature and man are the kind of changes that must be kept in mind if we are to appraise soundly the value of and necessity for the conservation of natural resources.

The storehouses of natural resources in America were so vast they were assumed to have been inexhaustible. Several hundred years of relentlessly increasing depletion have shown that assumption to have been a costly and terrible fallacy. Despite this realization the progress of conservation in the United States has been pitiable and inadequate—utterly out of scale with the magnitude of the problems confronting us. Surely it cannot be the purpose of this generation to make debt the outstanding of our material legacies to posterity. Conservative

James H. Duff

estimates place our national debt at the end of the war at $300,000,000,000.

At a two percent interest rate the yearly charges on that debt will exceed $6,000,000,000, which is a sum more than four times as great as the total debt of the United States in 1917 when we entered World War I.

It is, therefore, now regrettably clear that our generation will handicap the future with a tremendous burden of debt. It is true that this debt was come by, in great part, out of a determination to transmit to posterity a heritage of freedom and to hand down a civilization that esteems the dignity of the human personality. Nevertheless, those who are to come after us have the right to insist that we place in the way of being restored and replaced those things among our natural resources which we have recklessly or witlessly depleted, and which by their regular course in nature are capable of being restored and replaced.

Above all they have the right to insist that we do not make a wasteful and injudicious use of irreplacable natural resources, including the soil—that coefficient which in the final analysis will fix the standard of living in these United States in all the years to come.

No nation ever was endowed with greater wealth of marvelous top-soil than the United States: no nation ever wasted such vast quantities in so short a history. Top-soil, the food-producing part of the earth's surface, rarely is deeper than the blade of a spade. Nature creates it with unbelievable deliberation, usually building only an inch in thickness every 500 years. This thin precious outer filament of the earth's surface generally is stable and tractable when protected by a covering of vegetation from wind and water. Uncovered and bare it is volatile and fugitive, flying off with the first strong wind or running down the nearest rivulet in a hard rain.

More than 150 years ago far-sighted conservationists, among them Washington and Jefferson, pointed with alarm to the rapid deterioriation and impoverishment of the soil in the original settlements as the result of unwise husbandry. Failure to heed this wise advice plus the slipshod habit of exploiting land to the utmost and then abandoning it has extended the penury of the soil in large areas to all sections of the nation.

H. H. Bennett, Chief of the United States Soil Conservation Service, in analyzing the first national soil survey, said:

"Approximately 50 million acres of once fertile land in this country have been essentially ruined for practical cultivation by erosion. Another 50 million acres are in a condition almost as serious.

"About 100 million acres still in cultivation have been seriously impoverished by loss of soil: and about 100 million acres more of cultivated land are being depleted of productive soil at an alarming rate."

It is well to remember that the care with which top-soil was tended has determined the course of both empires and civilizations in other times in different parts of the world. There is no reason to believe a different rule will prevail in the United States.

The noteworthy admonition of Washington and Jefferson concerning soil conservation in the early days of the nation was paralleled a century previously in the early days of the colony by William Penn respecting forest reserves.

In July, 1681, in establishing restrictions for the colonists William Penn made a rule "that in clearing the ground care be taken to leave one acre of trees for every five acres cleared."

Pennsylvania then was a magnificent forest throughout its area. Two hundred and sixty-three years later the timber of Pennsylvania is an insignificant pittance in the total economy of the Commonwealth. For the most part the timber of Pennsylvania was cut as though it was a metal to be taken out and used and then lost once and for all.

One hundred years ago magnificent forests still remained in many parts of Pennsylvania. Along the northern tier of counties

there were great woods of white and red pine averaging from 60 to 80 magnificent trees to the acre, trees 135 to 150 feet tall from butt to tip, 100 feet to the first limb, and 12 to 15 feet around at the butt. When that timber was cut it was cut almost to the last tree. Although much of the land where it grew was absolute forest land, that is, land too stony and too rough ever to be used as farm land, nevertheless it was not reforested after the virgin trees were cut. Today over hundreds of thousands of acres there grow nothing but alder, ash, fire cherry, birch and other soft woods of inferior grade that by nature never develop into forest trees.

Following the close of the Civil War, great woods of hemlock (now the State tree), straight and tall as ships' masts, were felled, stripped of the bark for tan bark, and then allowed to rot where they fell, like great carcasses on an ancient battlefield when the losses were so great neither side could bury the dead. This within the memory of men now living in Pennsylvania!

Today, the costliness of labor in the sugar maple country, in addition to the inducement of high prices for lumber, has lured many owners of sugar maples on the wide tablelands of Pennsylvania to convert their sugar trees into the logs and slashings and sawdust piles of the lumber camps. Maple sugar, the indispensable concomitant of buckwheat cakes and sausage, may in our time become a memory like the lingering recollection of roasted chestnuts.

Streams have suffered the same thoughtless exploitation as the woods and the fields. So accustomed are we to making our streams the repositories of raw sewage that most municipalities assume it cannot be disposed of otherwise. Rubbish and the ugly pestiferous waste of thickly settled communities is dumped on the creek and river banks as a matter of course. Mines and industry complete the cycle of debasement—streams are made a carryall for the ugliest and most unwanted and difficult-to-dispose-of things in our civilization.

The Ohio River from its formation by the confluence of the Monongahela and Allegheny at Pittsburgh to its mouth at the Mississippi is about 900 miles long. The French explorers called it the Beautiful River. So indeed it was as its early visitors were unanimous in agreeing. It is still a marvelous stream but its slow-flowing waters annually carry away from the mines and mills along the river and its tributaries the equivalent of 3,000,000 tons of sulphuric acid. A roll call of the Delaware, the Schuylkill, the Susquehanna, the Allegheny, the Clarion, the Monongahela and other great streams of Pennsylvania can be made with an identical or similar history of pollution and spoliation.

No thoughtful person believes that it is possible in an advanced industrial economy to return to the idyllic beauty and circumstance of field and forest and stream of an agricultural economy. No one who knows that the mines and mills are the wherewithal of national industrial supremacy would suggest that they be shut down so that everyone could go fishing. But every thoughtful person now has come to realize that as a nation we have been shamefully wasteful and prodigal of all our natural material resources.

The incalculable waste of the war greatly has accentuated that opinion. Effective and aggressive action on a broad conservation front is therefore, imperative if we are to have due regard for the pleasure and well-being of those who are to come after us. That program sensibly formulated and wisely developed should enlist the support of all patriotic Americans.

—Copyright 1945, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*

Photo Courtesy Pennsylvania Dept. Forests and Waters.

**A fisherman's paradise? No! Just one of Pennsylvania's picturesque streams ruined by pollution—coal mine and industrial waste.**

California Condor at nesting cave, Ventura County, Calif.

# SHE LAID AN EGG

By

Jacob Bates Abbott

Illustrations by The Author

N THE vivid sunlight of a California morning they climbed the cliff, twelve-year-old Reddy, Dad and the old rancher. It had taken them all the day before to get there. Over night they had camped at the foot of the crag, deep in the wilderness of Ventura County's wildest gorges.

"Take it easy," warned the rancher. "The stiffest part of the climb's ahead. Don't worry, I'll show you condors all right."

An hour later, panting with exertion, they reached the flat shelf of a jutting ledge, a thousand feet above the canyon floor. Silently the grizzled cowman pointed to the entrance of a narrow cave across the ravine. It was several hundred feet away, but with the field glasses Reddy could see it plainly.

"Watch, now," the rancher whispered. "She'll be comin' out in a minute."

There was a blur in the shadows at the cavern mouth. Then an immense black bird, with a naked, bright orange head and neck, flopped awkwardly out of the gloom. It poised a second, then took off with a single beat of unbelievably huge wings. Black wings lined with white. All awkwardness was gone now. Down between the canyon walls the great bird swept; then, gaining altitude soared upward into the vivid California blue.

"That's her." The old man's whisper was hoarse. "Old Lady Condor herself. See the egg?"

Focusing his glasses again, Reddy discovered a white oval, five inches long, lying on the bare rock of the cave floor. Had he had it in his hand he would have seen a greenish tinge in the dull white of the egg.

"Wuth mebbe a thousand dollars—that egg," said the rancher quietly. "They only lay one every second year. An' there ain't forty condors left in the country. You've seen something, boy."

"Gee!" Reddy shouted. "Did you see those wings?"

The old fellow nodded. "Ten foot spread, from tip to tip?" he said. "We'd better go now, so she'll come back to settin' on that egg 'fore it gets cold. Don't want to scare her much. The Government's doin' its best to protect what's left o' the condors."

A bird's egg worth the price now offered by dealers for second-hand cars "in good condition"? You can't believe it? It's true, but don't get out your old clothes, try to borrow some climbing irons and go running out to look for condors' eggs. Wise conservation laws now absolutely protect the great majestic birds from abuse, and jail doors yawn for anyone foolhardy enough to risk death in the precipitous climb to the cave of the condor's white treasure.

Thirty years or more ago Judge R. Magoon Barnes of Lacon, Illinois, published a price-list of birds' eggs that was regarded as the oölogists' bible.

Let me quote a few examples:

| | |
|---|---|
| California Condor | $750 |
| Ivory-Billed Woodpecker | 100 |
| Passenger Pigeon | 100 |
| Trumpeter Swan | 50 |
| Whooping Crane | 45 |
| Swallow-Tailed Kite | 35 |
| Connecticut Warbler | 30 |

Judge Barnes knew about birds' eggs an their prices, for he had one of the best pri vate collections, housed in his own museum in existence, besides two others which h had donated to the Field Museum in Chicag But again, don't rush out egg-hunting. Th selling of rare eggs is now strictly forbidde in the United States; and Judges Barnes' lis is used only as a guide for permit-holdin collectors who wish to exchange eggs amon themselves. By the way, don't confuse th Barnes' price list with any O.P.A. ceilin prices the next time you want a dozen egg at the local A. & P.

Permits to collect, or even to own, eggs c our native birds are issued jointly by th United States Fish and Wildlife Service an the departments of conservation of the va rious states. Those eligible to receive license are scientists of recognized standing, or con servation-conscious amateurs who are un qualifiedly recommended by, and in mos cases working for, scientists or museum au thorities.

By strict limitation of permits, our countr has escaped the decimation of many of it native birds. England's bitter experience c overcollecting served as an example. Severa British birds, notably the osprey and re kite, have been all but wiped out by eg collectors. A pair of breeding ospreys, prac

tically the last known to exist in Great Britain, were isolated on a small island in a remote Scottish lake. Double barbed wire was thrown around the island, and an armed guard stationed nearby. But the fish hawk's eggs were stolen not once, but twice!

Our outstanding example of bird extinction through egg collecting is, of course, the great auk. It made its last stand a hundred years ago on Funk Island off the Labrador coast. Crews of visiting whalers and fishermen slaughtered these flightless birds by the thousands and carried away their eggs by the hogshead. Today the punctured eggshell of a great auk is worth about four thousand dollars. Perhaps sixty exist in the collections of the world.

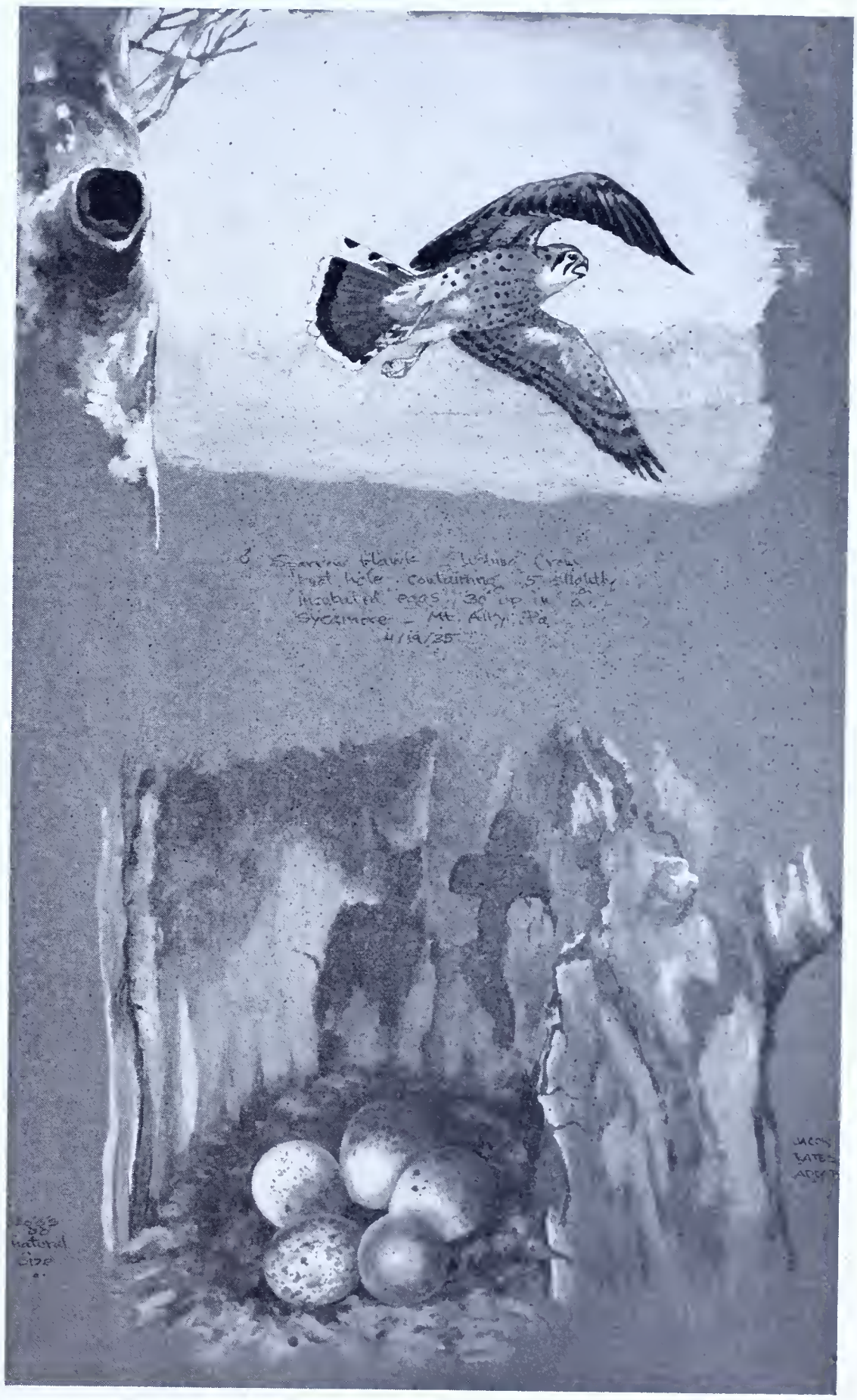
The most fascinating study of bird life centers in observations around their nests. Here it is that opportunity is really given to watch birds intimately, particularly if there are young in the nest, for parent birds at this time are so intent upon feeding and rearing their youngsters that very little attention is paid to the watcher if he is quiet and reasonably well hidden. Here you may see what the birds feed to their young and, if the nest belongs to birds of prey, you can observe what they have been hunting, for the game is brought home to the fledglings. Here, too, you may study closely various flight positions as the birds, with wings spread and tail fanned, come in to the nest, "putting on the brakes" to make the landing. Woodpeckers often shoot into their nest holes without a noticeable reduction of flying speed and the accuracy with which they are able to hit the center of the hole is amazing. Remember, this hole is only just large enough to admit the bird when it enters cautiously from a sitting take-off and not with the velocity of a dive bomber zooming at a target.

A collection of faded eggs, neatly labeled, lying in a museum drawer, is not a very fascinating sight. Birds' eggs must be seen in their nest, surrounded by the concealing foliage which the bird chose, to be fully appreciated. The vibrant blues, browns and mottled creams, glistening in sunshine filtered through green leaves, defy the pallette of a genius. And if you don't believe that a bird's nest filled with eggs, in its natural setting, is just about the most surprisingly beautiful thing in nature, wait until you find your first hermit thrush's nest and discover the three or four eggs, colored with the blue of a summer sky, cradled in their sunken jewel-casket of russet pine needles and sheltered by the vivid green, coral-like sprays of ground cedar and the matted, spiky, blue and green carpet of baby spruces. Or look into the little cave of leaves on the forest floor, pierced with the green shoots of young bunchberry leaves. Stoop down and peer into the shadowy two-inch opening of this miniature woods oven. In it you will see the four or five creamy, brown-spotted gems laid by the Oven Bird. That thrush-like wood warbler, whose loud "Teacher! Teacher!" call fairly rings through the early summer woods.

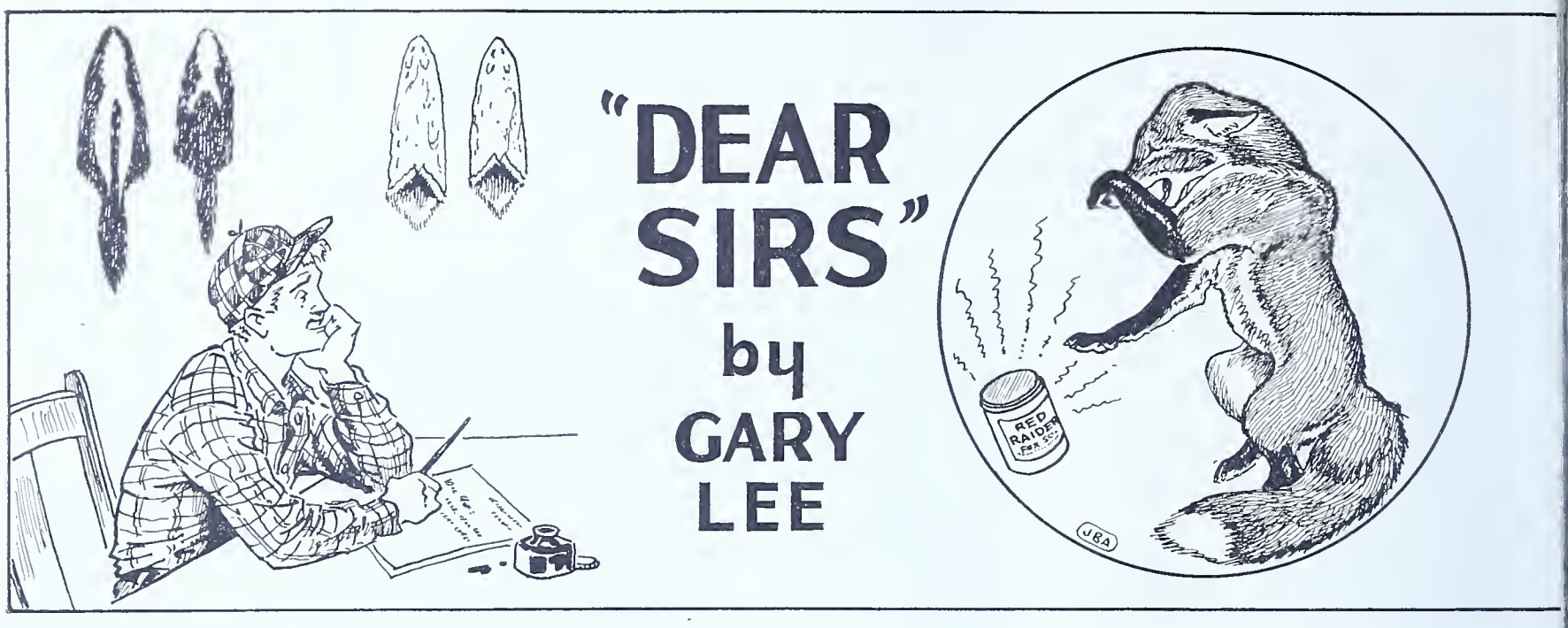
The remarkable way in which the speckled and spotted eggs of the ground-nesting game and shore birds blend with their surroundings must be seen to be believed. A few years ago I stood on the wind-swept beach of an island off the northern Massachusetts coast, within two feet of an Arctic Tern's nest," yet it was a matter of minutes before I could visually disentangle the two lightly speckled eggs from their sandy hollow in the pebble-strewn beach. The mixed and broken shades of brown, black, purple and grey in the eggs of woodcock, killdeer, many sandpipers and terns render them practically invisible in their native habitat.

It is possible, perhaps probable, that thousands of years ago all birds' eggs were neutral in color or white as are those today of the reptile family from which the birds are descended. Slowly, through the changing conditions of time, modifications in the needs of nesting birds have brought about the infinite variety of colors and patterns of their eggs. At present nearly all North American birds that nest in cavities lay white eggs: exceptions being the brown-sprinkled eggs of sparrow hawks, chickadees, brown creepers, house, marsh, Carolina and cactus wrens and bank- and cliff-nesting swallows and the pale blue eggs of bluebirds and starlings. These latter now nest in tree holes, but perhaps originally used open nests. Their eggs are

*(Continued on page 22)*



Sparrow Hawk flushing from knothole containing five slightly incubated eggs, thirty feet up in a sycamore tree, Mt. Airy, Pa.




*Note: All trade and personal names in these letters are fictitious*

Snow Bound, Pa.
Aug. 2, 1942.

The Fox Paw Scent & Equipment Co.
Snow Bank, Maine

My Dear Sirs:

Please find fifty-cents in stamps for your new, big catalogue advertised in Traps & Trapping. Please send it soon.

Very truly yours,
LLEWELLYN PUNKMIER.

Snow Bank, Maine,
August 6, 1942.

Mr. Llewellyn Punkmier
Snow Bound, Pa.

Dear Mr. Punkmier:

We are pleased to acknowledge receipt of 50c in stamps and to forward to you our new catalogue featuring the newest and best in trapping equipment.

After you have had an opportunity to study our catalogue and compare the quality and prices of our merchandise with others, we would be glad to receive your order for your trapping requirements. You will find our service prompt, courteous and entirely satisfactory.

Your attention is called to the new edition of "Fun With Foxes." This book is a must on the list of any fox trapper's equipment. Even the experienced trapper will greatly profit by following the new and improved methods suggested by the authors, Hyde and Hare. Their methods are easily followed and positive in result.

Doubtless you have heard of our famous scents; no equipment is complete without them. We are prepared to ship, at a moments notice, throughout the year, any of the many mixes we feel are unsurpassed in their effectiveness for the animals intended.

With best wishes for a successful trapping season, we are,

Very truly yours,
FOX PAW SCENT & EQUIPMENT COMPANY.

Snow Bound, Pa.
Sept. 15, 1942.

The Fox Paw Scent & Equipment Co.
Snow Bank, Maine

My Dear Sirs:

I have read your book fun with foxes by Hyde and Hare. These boys make fox trapping easy and I should do a real business on foxes. We have very many foxes here in fact the woods and fields is full of them. I want to get set for fox trapping and maybe win one of your prizes for the most foxes caught with your scent. Please send me 3 doz. traps number 2 and a 2 oz. bottle of Red Raider fox scent. Prices for gray foxes is real low so I don't care much about trapping them. Maybe when I have the reds trapped out I will start on gray ones just for fun. So send me 2 oz. of Gray Ghost scent too. Send me a pair of rubber gloves and 2 doz. drags. Please send this soon as I want to get a good start in this trapping business. Tom Wells is our best trapper and I want to beat him this year. I made my own bait like the book said—fun with foxes I mean—and it really smells awful just like the book says it will. Please send me 6 drying boards too. I will try to get along with these but if these do not care for my pelts fast enough I will order more later. I am enclosing my check for $30.30. Send the stuff by express.

Yours truly,
LLEWELLYN PUNKMIER.

Snow Bank, Maine,
September 20, 1942.

Mr. Llewellyn Punkmier
Snow Bound, Pa.

Dear Mr. Punkmier:

Thank you for your valued order which has already gone forward. We are sure you will find every item fully up to your expectations in both quality and performance.

We believe that six drying boards will accommodate your pelts since they need no be on these boards for long periods. I however, you feel a need for more of ther we shall be glad to ship more of ther promptly.

Use our scents liberally. You will fin them efficient and inexpensive. We try t keep a good stock of this item on hand a all times so that re-orders may be sent ou without delay.

Your order entitles you to participation i our $500.00 prize contest. We are sure yo have a good chance of earning one of ou prizes. To that end, please complete the en closed entry blank and return it so tha your name may be entered in this contes With best wishes, we are,

Very truly yours,
FOX PAW SCENT & EQUIPMENT COMPANY

Snow Bound, Pa.
Oct. 8, 1942

The Fox Paw Scent & Equipment Co.
Snow Bank, Maine

My Dear Sirs:

Mr. Hyde and Mr. Hare got me into som trouble yesterday. I made some bait lik they said and told you about sometime ag so I opened a jar of it yesterday to see hov good it was. I didnt think it was goo gosh it was very awful to say the least. got plain sick with just 2 smells and jus had washed my face and the front part o my shirt when Aunt Mary called me fo supper. Naturally I wasnt hungry but went in the house when she called the second time. Guess I wasnt thinking what was doing being sick so I set the jar on th floor just inside the door. Well Aunt Mary Uncle Bill and me set down to the tabl when Aunt Mary gave me a funny lool then looked at the dog setting there. Sh said my god that dog just when Uncle Bil hollered git out with all his might. He gav

he dog an awful lick as he went out of the loor but missed me because he was off alance. He threw the jar after me but nissed and it broke and he gave me 10 nin. e.s.t. he said to clean it up. I did but idnt eat any supper on account of I was ick again and they was mad. Uncle Bill aid if I want to keep such dam stuff around nat I was to keep it far enough from the ouse and him too so I took it to an old traw shed which is the greatest distance om the house. The bait by the way was e very best half of Mrs. Neffs cat which got one night on a samon set.

Yours truly,
LLEWELLYN PUNKMIER.

Snow Bound, Pa.
Oct. 20, 1942.

he Fox Paw Scent & Equipment Co.
now Bank, Maine

y Dear Sirs:

Well the dye is cast as my teacher says in hool. I set ½ my traps today and as Hyde d Hare say raise and sustain your hopes quote. I met Tom Wells who was setting ps too. He said what you doing Lew and said o setting a couple of traps. He said foxes and I said maybe. He said if you t a good one Don Neff would like to have e for his wife for Xmas and I said thanks ybe I can give him one. I didn't say so t I am sure I can. But I want to keep best one for Virginia shes my girl friend. didnt tell him I was using Red Raider ich gives me a jump on him. He mixes own scent but I dont think it is as good your Red Raider. Wouldnt it be funny I sold a fur to Don Neff which was ght with bait made from the hind part Mrs. Neffs cat. Some joke. I will re- t how many foxes I get every week if I find time to do it.

Yours truly,
LLEWELLYN PUNKMIER.

Snow Bound, Pa.
Oct. 30, 1942.

Fox Paw Scent & Equipment Co.
w Bank, Maine

Dear Sirs:

aint caught no foxes yet and have trapped n a week. Up to now I got exactly 17 ums, 3 crows, 4 skunks and a house Mrs. Tompsons. And is she mad but isnt sure if I got it or not but thinks I put it in my bait collection. It was lack cat. I got a dog to of which I ld tell you. It was Mr. Lees dog the e Mr. Lee which is the father of Vir- my girl friend. I was coming home Virginias on Wed. night and after I out of town about ½ mile I heard a chasing a rabbit maybe. He came closer e and then all of a sudden as it were his changed to a kind of balling yelling ing noise and I thought bet hes in one y traps. He was. I hurried across a small but somebody beat me to him in fact men beat me to him and they was Mr. and Don Neff. Such swearing and ing on I never heard again and again again. Mr. Lee sword at me and said of e useless fatheaded nogood ill smellin I was the worst. I didnt think he d of made so much fuss over one fox but then I seen what his trouble was and mine. I made what Hyde & Hare calls a double trouble set—they mean double trouble for a fox but this time it was both mine. Two traps was set about 15 ft. apart from each other and when Mr. Lee tried to get his dog out of trap No. 1 he found out that there was a skunk in the other one No. 2. Mr. Lee and Don Neff was hunting coon but they didnt no more that night. I hid along the fence when they left for home and as far as I could hear them Mr. Lee was still carrying on and Don was saying something I was glad I couldnt all understand and the dog was limping. On Thursday Uncle Bill said I wonder why Mr. Lee wasnt in the office today and I said I dunno.

Very truly yours,
LLEWELLYN PUNKMIER.

Snow Bound, Pa.
Nov. 15, 1942.

The Fox Paw Scent & Equipment Co.
Snow Bank, Maine

My Dear Sirs:

Wonder whats wrong with your Red Raider and Gray Ghost scent. I thought they was for foxes. I did everything they said in fun with foxes. Uncle Bill says youre book ought to be called fun *for* foxes. In any case I got no foxes just skunks oposums oposums and skunks. Sometimes crows and housecats but always skunks and oposums. Some smarties holler hello posum Punkmier and then they say hey Lew is that lady wearing one of your furs. Maybe you give me the wrong stuff by getting my order mixed with somebodie elses. Check my order and see if I got the right stuff. If Red Raider is what Uncle Bill thinks it is he says thats dam high priced stuff. He says they usually throw it away anyway. He said hell boy you havent earned your shoe laces let alone the shoe souls you are wearing out you would do better husking corn and forgetting about this dam foolishness. But I say faint hearts never gather no moss and keep on trying. I wasnt in Virginias house since Mr. Lees dog was caught in my trap. She said dont come to the house until I tell you to come. Mr. Lee had to burn his clothing and his dogs foot is still to sore for him to hunt. This makes me sad and lonely. If your Red Raider would catch foxes instead of skunks and oposums and crows and cats and dogs I wouldnt be lonely.

Very truly yours,
LLEWELLYN PUNKMIER.

Snow Bank, Maine,
November 30, 1942.

Mr. Llewellyn Punkmier
Snow Bound, Pa.

Dear Mr. Punkmier:

We read with no little interest your complaint regarding our Red Raider and Gray Ghost Scents. In spite of your disheartening experience we still maintain a jealous pride over our products and feel that for their purposes they are unsurpassed.

Let us assure you of our complete interest in our customers at all times. We shall endeavor, as we always have, to be helpful in any way possible.

In writing to this office in the future we must ask that you guard the language of your correspondence more carefully. Our stenographic force is made up entirely of ladies. Therefore, when referring to specific sets such as the smelling post set—call it smelling post set and, please, do not refer to it in backyard terminology. This applies equally when reference is made to components of the scents you describe is being made by some of your trapping friends.

Very truly yours,
FOX PAW SCENT & EQUIPMENT COMPANY.

*(Continued on page 28)*

Broken twigs and wilting leaves offer mute testimony to the "locust" scourge.

# THE MYSTERIOUS SEVENTEEN YEAR LOCUST

## By A. B. Champlain

### Photos by H. B. KIRK

NOTE: *About thirty broods of the periodical cicada have been tabulated by Federal and State Entomologists, who have located the areas they infest and have checked up on the time of their appearance over a period of many years. This article deals with Brood II which appears in 1945. Ed.*

AMONG the big outdoor events scheduled for 1945 is the appearance of Brood II of the periodical cicada, known familiarly as the "seventeen-year locust." When men and women now of voting age were four year old babies, millions of these insects laid their eggs and died. During the coming summer, youngsters that hatched from these eggs, laid in 1928 will reach maturity. Over the various localities listed, adult "locusts" will appear in enormous swarms and do their best to add to the broadcasts of 1945.

These Methuselahs of the insect world are expected to come before the public within the states of Connecticut, District of Columbia, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. (For the benefit of local readers we have learned that in Pennsylvania they will be seen and heard in the counties of Berks, Bucks, Chester, Dauphin, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Pike, Potter, Schuylkill and Wyoming.) To summarize we find that Brood II of the "seventeen-year locusts" will invade the more populated areas of the Atlantic Seaboard with a few scattered points a little to the westward.

Before we go any further however, we wish to assure you ther is no great cause for alarm. Damage done by these outstandin members of the insect world is generally over-estimated b popular investigators. Periodical cicadas are usually more preva lent in forest or wooded areas. The female of the species does mos of the damage. She has an inherent urge to use her egglayin apparatus to chisel grooves along the branches and twigs of tree in which to deposit her eggs. This operation causes the injury t trees and shrubs that lie in the path of these "chiseling ladies. Orchards that may be planted in localities where "locusts" appea may get a general trimming; forest trees and shrubs suffer to som extent by these slits in their branches, but the total damage is sligh and the effects disappear quickly, therefore, any attempt at contro or eradication would be a waste of time and money.

The mystery of where these periodically appearing creature spend the sixteen years of their young lives before they burst fort as "cellophane" clad pupae and winged adults, is now an ope secret. Everything would be clear if we were to follow one in dividual cicada as it hatches from its egg in a slit twig. This hap pens about six weeks after the egg has been laid by the mothe when the tiny cicada works its way clear from the ruptured eg and deliberately drops into space like a parachutist. If it has bee lucky in its landing operation, all is well and our cicada nymp quickly searches for a crack or crevice in the earth in which t hide away. Here in the underground regions it begins its long sub terranean life. The little cicada continues to burrow through th soil with its greatly developed fore legs, hunting for tender root and rootlets from which to suck the sap for its subsistence; a sap sucking baby, storing up energy to tide it over the growing period and to prepare it for its final short stay above ground.

What a life! Sixteen years of seclusion beneath twelve to eightee inches of soil, during which time the insect develops in size fror that of a flea to dimensions of a little more than an inch in length Just think, we hunters and hikers have been walking over top c "seventeen-year locusts" all this time and never thought about i

With the first spell of warm weather in the spring somewher around Decoration Day, this host of summer visitors will approac the surface of the earth. Now in damp places their mud chimney

Pupal shells and adult "locusts" on foliage.

or in dryer areas, their emerging holes or shafts may be seen over the surface of the ground. Of course there will be many unrecorded catastrophes connected with cicada lives. When changes such as new concrete highways, buildings or similar barriers have been constructed over the localities where they have spent their underground stages, many of the poor cicadas will never reach the open air. The myriads remaining, however, will come marching out of their burrows under cover of night-fall, armies of khaki-clad pupae with conspicuous wing pads and tenaceous legs. We will find them crawling up any convenient objects that happen to lie in their paths—either tree, bush, fence, house or rock. They aim to find comfortable parking places on which to shed their pupal skins or "shells." Through a slit in the back of each enclosing pupal case, the ghostlike perfect insect forms will emerge. Tender, limp and helpless "seventeen-year locusts" are more secure in the performance of these delicate operations under cover of friendly night. At first soft and white, upon coming in contact with the air they soon harden up and develop the colors of the clan. By the next daybreak they will be normal adults ready to flit hither and yon on the business of the fraternity.

The periodical cicada, miscalled "seventeen year locust," when mature is about one and one-fourth to one and one-half inches in length. The general body color is black with orange bands on the abdomen. Like all insects, it has six legs, which in this case are reddish-orange in color. Two conspicuous bright red compound eyes adorn the front of the head, jewels that are outstanding in the intensity of their color. Not to miss anything, it is provided with three smaller simple eyes on the top of its head, in addition to these "eyes of a thousand facets." To fly about it is furnished with four shiny transparent wings, the larger veins of which are orange colored and ornamental. On each fore wing the dark brown W is evident, which so many persons believe is a forecast of war. This W is a natural ornamental part of the wing veination and you can take it from me, there is no truth to the story. The mouth parts of this insect consist of a slender beak with which to dine sparingly off the juice of tender growth.

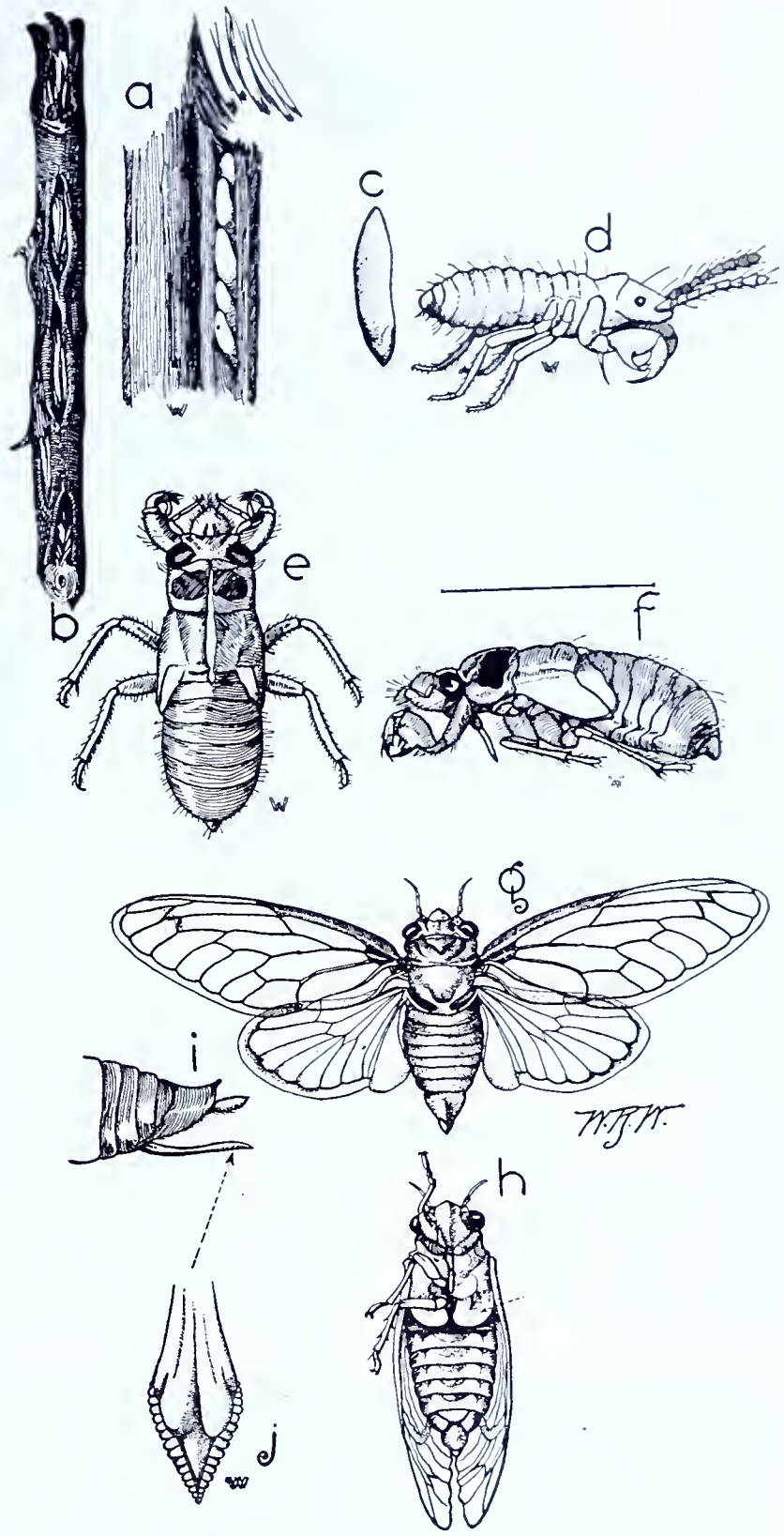
In the vicinity of Rattlesnake Shack, our camp in Clarks Valley, we have noted the various broods that were recorded from that vicinity. Many times we were cautioned by natives or visitors who were taught that the sting of the "locust" was poisonous. They marveled that we handled "locusts" with impunity, so remember that the "seventeen-year locust" or periodical cicada cannot bite or sting and is in fact harmless.

Now that we have brought our cicadas to adult estate and almost to legal age, we shall find the woods full of them. We shall see them covering the vegetation, on highways and their embankments or the fences along the wooded road. We shall hear them before we see them and when we approach close enough, the noise they make will astound us. They have nothing to do but eat, reproduce and "sing." As we said before, the females proceed with their egg-laying, while the males, all of whom have plenty of leisure on their "hands," confine most of their activities to squawking a shrill discordant protest if disturbed or humming the monotonous call said to resemble the name Pharaoh after the Egyptian King who persecuted the Israelites. This Pharoah note is a purring rattle and does not indicate any relation to the punishment of locusts that was known in Biblical times and as the eighth plague of Egypt. These latter insects were true migratory locusts which belonged to the grasshopper hordes while the periodical cicadas or "seventeen-year locusts" are true sucking bugs of the Homopterous order.

The ancient Greek poet, Xenarchus, wrote the ungallant couplet that might have been amusing at that time:

"Happy the cicadas' lives,
For they all have voiceless wives."

There is considerable literal truth in this poetry in regard to our insects. It is only the male cicada which is provided with the noise-making apparatus. The sound is begun at first by stretching and relaxing a pair of parchment-like corrugated membranes by means of muscles which are located in the insect's abdomen. This vibratory "music" is intensified or softened by a complex sounding apparatus consisting of two cavities in the body covered by a pair of disks which are opened or closed by movements of the insect. These air-drums, not unlike kettle drums, do not occur in the bodies of the females and apparently the lady cicadas pay no attention to the rattle, chatter and shrill monologue of their harmonious or inharmonious (whichever you prefer) mates. The latter, however, each trying to outdo the other in this meaningless "song-fest," get no-




Drawing by W. R. Walton.

**"Seventeen year locust" or Periodical Cicada. a—Eggs in twig, magnified. b—egg punctures in twig. c—egg, enlarged. d—young cicada just hatched—greatly enlarged. e—young cicada, dorsal view. f—side view, same. g—adult cicada. h—under view, same. i—egg-laying organ. j—tip of egg-laying organ.**

where, for apparently they pay no attention to each other. Their "music" is seemingly for their own individual entertainment, like singing in the bathtub. The question before the house, therefore is why this song, noise or rattle? For what purpose this useless talent? Are they deaf or dumb, or both? There are forms of instinct which soar beyond all physical explanation into the realm of speculation and I for one, do not know the answer.

At any rate, by the middle of June the egg laying activities will be almost completed. Then we shall find the forest floor covered with dead "locusts" or fragments of their bodies. Before this they will have been attacked by predatory animals, insectivorous birds and "what not" who will thus be provided with quantities of rich food, easy to get. Following this we shall find the scavengers of the forest floor such as rodents, insects and other prowling creatures treated to a banquet that will, for a while, dissipate hard times.

*(Continued on page 19)*

# THE FARMER'S WOOD BANK

By George H. Wirt*

IT IS not unusual to hear someone tell about a farmer who paid off the mortgage on his farm with the money he received from a good crop of potatoes. Probably more farmers have paid for the college education of their children from the old wood lot. Innumerable farmers have been able to replace a barn, house, or other building because it was possible to get the necessary timber from the woodlot.

Not long ago a story was passed along about a lawyer who planted several abandoned farms to black walnut trees instead of taking out insurance. When he died he left the farms to his wife and daughter. The investment paid a net annual return of about $10,000.

There are a few easily understood facts, known to most farm land owners, by reason of which there can be no question as to the woodlot becoming the farmer's bank.

Most farms in Pennsylvania already have a part of their area devoted to tree growth. Those that do not certainly are incomplete. It should be kept in mind that trees will grow on rough, shallow, wet, steep or poor soil on which no agricultural crop can be grown profitably. Fence rows and inconvenient corners will grow trees and result in time-saving every year. By devoting to trees all of this land that is difficult and profitless to farm for annual crops, more attention can be given to the better areas and the usual agricultural crops may be increased.

Moisture in soil and atmosphere is a very essential material for the raising of good and plentiful soil crops. Exposure to winds results in a drying out of crops and soil which shows itself immediately in reduced growth and reduced final yield.

On the other hand, the planting of wind breaks of trees across the usual paths of local winds results not only in an accumulation of wood in the trees but also in an increase in farm crops. When these wind breaks are made with shrubs, as well as trees, shelter is provided for game and insectivorous birds which add further to the increase of crops and to the value of the farm.

In the eastern part of the State a young man purchased a farm and began planting white ash trees along the fence rows. In about 40 years the value of the ash trees on the stump was more than he had paid for the farm.

The way a tree grows corresponds exactly to the way money accumulates in a trust fund. The little tree starts from seed and there is produced the wood of the first year's growth. The second year's growth of wood is laid over that of the first year. The third year's wood is laid over the cone made up of the first and second years, and so on. The first year's wood is the capital, the next year's wood is the first interest. The two amounts are the capital to which the next growth or interest is added. That is a natural demonstration of the way compound interest works. At any given date, therefore, the total amount of wood present on a tree or on an area devoted to tree growth is the accumulated annual crop of wood less any amount which has died, decayed or been removed. If a farmer saved his wheat crops and stored them in a bin on the wheat field, using only a portion each year or so, that accumulation would correspond to his wood bank in the woodlot. But the new crop of wheat does not grow on top of the previous accumulations.

There are several advantages in this natural storage proposition and also several disadvantages. When a farmer raises a crop of tomatoes, he has to harvest them when they are ripe and something must be done with them immediately. Corn, wheat or potatoes may be stored on the farm and can be held for one or more years but with some loss. Annual crops of wood, however, have to be stored until their accumulation results in a tree or trees big enough to use. But even then they can be stored still longer until it is the wish of the owner to harvest all or a part of the crop. The time of harvest can be made to coincide with the owner's needs for wood, or cash, and may be held up until prices are high.

As long as the trees are healthy and neither too far apart nor too close together they will continue to grow at a good rate of interest. However, if they are allowed to crowd each other production is reduced and if the tree branches do not cover the entire area, sun, wind and rain are wasted and not turned into wood and the crop is not as great as it should be.

Since wood in trees is nothing more than sun, wind and rain combined by the chemical action that takes place in the leaves and since there is approximately the same amount of sun, wind and rain to an acre of land each year, if the leaves cover the entire acre, the annual crop of wood will be approximately the same. It is a plain conclusion, therefore, that the area devoted to wood crops should be completely covered at all times with leaves of valuable kinds of trees kept at the right spacings for rapid growth and only healthy trees should be kept in the group. If, in time, the trees do not increase at a rate of interest equal to, at least, 3% they should be cut so that younger trees growing at a faster rate may take their place.

Most farm crops have to be reseeded for each crop. A new forest must come from seed or sprouts and can be started under old trees by careful cutting of trees and stirring up of the ground to receive seed as it falls from the older trees. After the younger trees get started, the remaining older ones may be removed and a new forest is on its way. The old trees will have been completely harvested and used to advantage. So a forest area may be continually maintained as a forest and yet the wood crops may be continually harvested, either regularly or irregularly.

If fire, grazing, failure to get new trees started or anything else opens up the growth, production is lowered. If trees of low value or in poor shape or health are permitted to occupy the ground then production is lowered. Good judgment in the handling of the tree crops pays just as big dividends as good judgment in handling other crops.

One outstanding disadvantage of the ac-

(Continued on page 29)

* Senior Forest Fire Warden, Pa. Dept. Forests and Waters.

Photo by Dept. of Forests and Waters.

**Many farmers have been able to replace a barn, house, or other buildings because it was possible to use timber from their woodlots.**

# DITCHING FOR MUSKRATS

*By Frank C. Edminster**

A CARDINAL principle of soil conservation is good land use. When the "land" in question is marshland, the most satisfactory use generally is as a habitat for wildlife, such as muskrats. A practice newly tried in Maryland and Virginia—ditching of thickly vegetated marshes by the use of dynamite—may prove to be an important step in the productive management of many acres of marshland.

Marshes tend to get more and more thickly vegetated from year to year and unharvested vegetation accumulates. At the same time the marsh becomes gradually drier and the type of vegetation tends to change from varieties particularly acceptable to muskrats as food to less desirable types. The muskrats in such marshland are, therefore, faced both with a reduction in preferred food supplies and with insufficient open water to get about easily by swimming, which is their preferred means of locomotion. A reduction in muskrat population follows and may in extreme cases end in virtual abandonment of a marsh by the rats.

Typical overgrown marshes are to be found n several states in the Northeastern Region, notably Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey and New York. The Regional Divisions of Biology and Engineering recently began an experiment for the improvement of such marshes by means of level ditches blasted by dynamite. The first site selected as a demonstration area was a 63 acre marsh on the farm of R. N. Whaley, near Quaker Neck, Maryland, n the Kent County Soil Conservation District.

This marsh is located between the Chester River and higher ground on the farm. It is tidal marsh containing large quantities of salt marsh grass *(Distichlis)*, which is relatively unpalatable to muskrats, and occasional patches of three-square bulrush, which is a favorite muskrat food. For the most part, vegetation in this marsh has become so solid that it can be traversed by a man in low shoes without getting wet. It was thought that ditching would break up this solid cover, give all parts of the marsh greater accessibility for the muskrats, and promote the spread of the three-square bulrush.

A demonstration of ditching was, accordingly, undertaken early in November. The farm owner provided 800 pounds of dynamite, which was sufficient to blast about 3,550 feet of ditch, enough to evaluate the results but only about half what is estimated would be required to develop the whole marsh area of 63 acres. It was decided, however, that no further extension ditching would be undertaken until it was seen what results would be obtained from the treated area after the lapse of one year's time.

A primary ditch was first laid out in approximately a semi-circle to connect two ponds located in the marsh about 1,450 feet apart. Connecting with the primary ditch are four laterals of 400 to 750 feet each. At one point, the main ditch was left interrupted by a block of solid ground about six feet across, which is intended as a bridge to maintain accessibility over the marsh. It is believed that the animals will cut channels through this "bridge" and thus equalize the water levels. Half-sticks of dynamite were placed at intervals of from 14 to 18 inches with the tops eight inches below the surface and detonated electrically. The resulting ditches are from four to six feet wide and two to three feet deep. This formula was found to be best for concentrating the spoil on the sides of the ditches. Where this was most successful, the spoil averaged a foot or more in height, thus forming a bank which can provide good denning facilities for the muskrats. Because the marsh is connected with the Chester River in at least two places, it will be necessary to install tide gates at these entrances in order to maintain the marsh water at high tide level. This work will be done as soon as possible.

Mr. Whaley expects to grow corn in strips at three locations adjoining the marsh. This corn is intended for muskrat food, and the strips will be maintained in a satisfactory rotation worked out by the Kent District Conservationist. The past history of the marsh together with records of muskrat take in recent years, will be worked up by the owner. After trapping is resumed a year hence (none will be done this winter) any marked increase in the muskrat population should be readily apparent. If results are good, there are thousands more acres of marshland that can be improved the same way.

Photos U. S. Soil Conservation Service.
Blasting of ditch through a marsh. Stakes in foreground mark line of another ditch still to be blasted.

Completed ditch filled with water and showing low spoil banks on each side.

*Chief, Regional Biology Division, U. S. Soil Conservation Service, Upper Darby, Pa.

# RESOLUTIONS OF THE FEDERATION

DUE to the ban on transportation and hotel reservation for convention groups this year, the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs cancelled its 14th annual meeting. Instead the Board of Directors held an executive session to carry on the business for the coming year and also sat as a permanent committee to consider resolutions presented by the eight divisions.

Resolutions acted upon and approved are as follows:

FISH RESOLUTIONS—It was recommended that the Fish Commission . . .

Consider the intensity with which a stream is fished in addition to its length and volume of flow in allocating trout and other fish for stocking.

Make an effort to stock more Bluegills and Perch in Cascada Park Lake and ponds in close vicinity of the Deshon Annex Hospital in New Castle to help the recreation program for disabled soldiers.

Provide regular and deputy fish wardens with the same authority to make arrests as game protectors and deputies, and have uniforms and compensation when on duty.

Urge the expansion of present hatcheries and acquire new ones at suitable locations.

Check with local fish wardens as to the condition of streams before any stocking is done.

Resurvey streams known to be sorely affected by draught so stocking may be done with the least loss of fish life.

Open the 1945 and any other trout season when April 15 falls on a Sunday, on April 14.

Close to all fishing from April 1, to 5:00 A.M. of the opening day of trout season all sections of streams stocked with trout and approved as State stocked trout streams.

GAME RESOLUTIONS—It was recommended that the Game Commission . . .

Prohibit the sale of live foxes to any fur dealer or individual.

Shall not permit the hunting of antlered and antlerless deer at the same time.

Shall not permit antlered and antlerless deer to be hunted in the same year.

Make every possible effort to formulate a plan whereby roads on all game lands will be open to the public, during regular hunting seasons, under rules and regulations the Commission may find necessary in the interest of safety.

Produce suitable food for game, permitting same to grow wild on game lands.

Increase the stocking of ringnecks to remove pressure from other unstockable small game.

Be commended for having adopted its twelve-week-old stocking pheasant program and that it continue releasing ringnecks at this age in the future in the areas such stockings were made in the past.

Shall release pheasants in the early spring rather than the fall of the year.

Raise game food and cover plants, shrubs and trees, or acquire them from the Department of Forests and Waters or other sources, making them available to recognized groups such as sportsmen's organizations, 4-H Clubs, Boy Scouts, etc., to supplement artificial feeding.

Instead of trying to trim the deer herd down to conform to the amount of food naturally available, the amount of food be increased to support the deer herd.

Substantially increase the amount spent annually for improving game food conditions especially in the big game territory.

Supplement its feeding program by acquiring land in sections not considered farming areas and planting it to crops and trees which will produce game food thus attracting wildlife from agricultural sections.

Establish, commensurate with available manpower, necessary fire lanes on its lands to facilitate protection from forest fires.

Lease or purchase from the Department of Forests and Waters an acre or two of land here and there at well planned spots for the sole purpose of clean cutting to produce cover and feed for game.

Plan a post-war project on timber lands by cutting food and cover areas to improve them for big and small game.

Remove the skunk from the fur-bearing animal list for a period of four years, or for two-year periods.

Purchase or lease all of the marsh lands in the vicinity of Hartstown adjoining Pymatuning Lake, and what is known as Conneaut Lake marsh.

Purchase pieces of waste land throughout Division "F" for the purpose of planting wild waterfowl food in an effort to relieve the congested duck hunting condition near the Pymatuning Reservoir.

Establish a hare season from January 1, 1946 to January 15, 1946.

Open the mink season at the same time the muskrat season opens.

Retain the Great Horned Owl on the unprotected list together with the prevailing bounty rates.

Make application to the Federal Government for the release of ammunition, traps and other items necessary for the control of predators.

Print and distribute instructions on fox trapping along the lines of those now successfully employed by Game Protectors, as soon as paper is available.

Purchase rabbits and pheasants at the closest possible point of destination, provided they are in good condition and can be obtained at fair prices at such points.

Advance the season on woodchucks to open June 15 and close September 30, and to establish bag limits thereof.

To continue restocking rabbits purchased in the open market as was formerly the practice.

Take steps to immediately reduce the number of deer refuges within those counties which contain main forests and herds of deer and in which a substantial kill of deer is made each year, and, in their place, establish small refuges in areas of abandoned or low-value farm lands for the protection and propagation of small game, such areas to be planted with suitable food and cover.

Continue its present predator control program.

Reduce the number of opossums, particularly in northern Pennsylvania where the animals are becoming very numerous and destructive to small game.

Open the muskrat trapping season on the last Saturday in November.

Repeat the "Hunt Safely Week" program on a larger scale in 1945 and that there be at least one "Hunt Safely" program in each county in which a lecture, motion pictures, exhibits, etc. will be provided.

Photo Courtesy Oil City Derrick.

**When wildlife in this section became hard pressed for food as a result of snow that continued to drift deeper as the winter progressed, the Venango County Buck Tails decided it was time to take a hand. The above picture shows a group of Bucktails at the start of the first feeding caravan held on Sunday, January 21. Believe it or not, there is a truck loaded with over 60 bushels of corn on the cob behind the crowd of Woolrich jackets.**

**The Venango County Buck Tails has 14 years of successful operation behind it and is still going strong. Since its organization, this sportsmen's club has played a leading role in outdoor club activities in Northwestern Pennsylvania, and today it is more active than ever with over 2,000 names included on its membership roll.**

Change the hours of duck shooting on waterways bounding Pennsylvania so they will agree with those in effect for migratory bird hunting on Lake Erie, except during the small game season.

Open the bear season the week preceding the deer season with the Sunday in between if the war emergency exists, otherwise from November 14 to 17 inclusive, the deer season coming later.

Place the same bounty on the red fox as is on the gray and establish a $2.00 bounty on the Cooper's hawk.

Close the bear season at least one full week before the opening of the deer season.

Other Resolutions:

The Federation . . .

Requested that the Game and Fish Commissions prepare extensive programs so that excellent sport will be available for ex-servicemen when they return to civil life.

Opposed any change in the fish law which would permit the sale of fish to any individual, party or club.

Re-affirmed previous resolution requesting the Legislature to provide for an increase of 50c in the fishing license.

Petitioned Governor Edward Martin to retain Mr. Charles A. French in his present capacity and under no circumstances should anyone else be put in his place.

Petitioned the Fish Commission to retain Mr. J. Allan Barrett in his present position as Editor of the PENNSYLVANIA ANGLER and lecturer.

Re-affirmed its stand on the proposal to increase the salaries of the field forces of the Fish and Game Commissions, same to become effective as quickly as possible.

Opposed House Bill H. R. No. 4485 "Authorizing the construction of certain public works in rivers and harbors for flood control and other purposes" unless amendments covering the following are incorporated in the bills: 1. That, a provision be inserted to require studies by biological experts of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service of all waters to be impounded for flood purposes so that such impoundments may be utilized to the best advantage for fish and game. 2. That on all such impoundments the rights of the states with reference to the control of resident wildlife populations, the fixing of legislation or regulations governing the taking thereof, and the issuing of hunting and fishing licenses, shall be specifically recognized.

Recommended that proper steps be taken by the Legislation Committee of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs to have the Ohio River Sanitation compact, known in the General Assembly of Pennsylvania as House Bill No. 121, be brought out of committee, presented on the floor of the House and ratified. thus making it possible for this compact to become effective.

Opposed any merging of the Fish and Game Commissions until the sportsmen have the opportunity to approve such change.

Recommended that a law be enacted requiring a permit to strip mine for coal or oher minerals and that such a permit be issued only after sufficient security is approved to guarantee the leveling of this disturbed surface so that at no place shall there be a greater slope than twenty degrees, and to guarantee the reforestation of such surfaces as directed by the Department of Forests and Waters.

Commended the Governor for his stand for pure streams and favored the passage of the Brunner Amendment to the Pure Stream Law placing coal silt within said act; and that a copy of this resolution be sent to all members of the State Legislature.

Recommended that all possible action be taken to promote and obtain legislation empowering the Sanitary Water Board to immediately stop the pollution of unpolluted streams by prohibiting the discharging of any deep mine or surface strip mine drainage or seepage into any now unpolluted stream within the Commonwealth. And further, that any streams cleaned up under the Sanitary Water Board or unpolluted shall receive no future pollution.

Favored the extension of the bounty system to effectuate better control of predators and urged legislation giving the Game Commission authority to establish bounties and territories so that it will always be economically profitable to destroy predators.

Opposed the releasing of foxes for trapping or hunting.

Commended the Game Commission for the browse cutting they were able to do to provide additional deer food and urged even larger scale cuttings in the future.

**Robert Rhines, 17 year old nimrod of Hallton, Elk County, with a fine 10-point bagged in Forrest County on December 5, 1944. Nice going, Robert.**

Recommended that the Commonwealth take over all mine sealing on a permanent basis as a function of the Department of Mines.

Recommended that a Bill be introduced providing that non-residents be prohibited from taking fur-bearing animals in Pennsylvania.

Urged the Fish and Game Commissions to give the maximum amount of publicity to violators of the game and fish laws, preferably through the newspapers.

Recommended making it a serious offense to hunt groundhogs without wearing a red hat or cap while so engaged.

Urged that the present trapping law be amended so a trapper must visit his traps at least every 24 hours.

Recommended that the salaries of game protectors, fish wardens, and forest rangers be increased to the point where the minimum will be at least $150 per month.

Recommended that Article 8, Section 806 of the Game Code with reference to the possession of loaded firearms and certain ammunition, Clauses A and B, be further amended to include .22 calibre rifles.

Reaffirmed its policy in favor of opening the small game season on the Saturday nearest the first day of November, and opening the deer season on the Monday nearest the first day of December.

Recommended that the joint resolution of the Senate and House recommending a dove season in the southeastern part of the State be extended to include the whole Commonwealth.

Favored repeal of the Act of Assembly now in effect which protects foxes in Chester and Delaware Counties.

**Three of five big ones killed at Rock Oak Camp which neglected to mention its location. In the photo are the two cooks, both wives of camp members. It's nice, and profitable, to take the women folks along sometimes even though they aren't good pinochle, jin rummy, or poker players. Next time, Rock Oakers, tell us where you hail from.**

L315825

"Must tell you of an, or rather two, amusing incidents in the past week. One day during a 10 minute break, I was standing close to two fellows who were talking and heard they were in the 770th MP outfit here. Knew that was 'Bob's' outfit. I asked the one if he knew Lt. Lichtenberger. 'Yes, I knew him for quite a while before the war,' he replied. 'So did I,' I remarked and he added that he and Bob worked for the same outfit. 'So did I,' I said and found out it was 'Bill' Hodge, out of one of the previous Training School classes. (PGCTS). I had never met him before, nor he me. Well, two days later, I was checking the names of the men in my squad and ran across a Don E. Miller. I told him the name is very familiar. He was interested and we started to inquire as to where we were from, what we worked at, etc., and found he was 'one of our gang' too! Neither of us knew the other before. So Don and I spend much of our time together. Sunday Lichtenberger and Hodge came down to see us. Bill said if he had known this would be a 'Game Commission Class' he'd be in it too. The four of us had a grand bull session. I understand Trexler is somewhere to our North, not too far—Bob's going to tell him to come down to see us. Kornman isn't too far away, either. Hodge often assists the instructors in our school, so the three of us get to 'bat the breeze' during breaks."—Candidate Martin L. Shaffer, Class 33, CMP, OCS, Ft. Sam Houston, Texas.

---

"It has been quite some time and some distance since I last wrote. I can't plead lack of time, but there always seemed to be something to do and conditions weren't very often conducive to writing. We landed in Italy several weeks ago and arrived at our permanent station a week ago. Have spent most of the past several days making our tent liveable. Now have a brick floor, a stove and several boxes stacked up for storage. Still using candles for light, but we should have electricity before long. Certainly a change from the quarters we had in the States.

"We flew our plane over. It was quite an interesting trip, but I still haven't seen any country that I'd take for a square mile of Somerset County.

"Give my regards to all the folks at the office."—Lt. N. M. Ruha, 0-679294, 124th Bomb. Sqdn. (M) 451st Gp., APO 520, c/o Postmaster, N. Y.

"Time permitting, I'll endeavor to answer your most welcome letter of January 13. From all recent letters, I can see you are having a genuine old time Winter there. What snow or cold climates feel like I almost forget. That time of the year always was my preference, and my overseas tropical past has not changed it but instead aroused a stronger feeling for cold.

"Names I cannot reveal, but I am somewhere in the Pacific, or that place known so well as Island "X". Summed up, it is no different from all others I've seen. For sure, the natives are the same, and have that permanent sun burn that neither wears or washes off.

"I have seen quite a few ducks of late, but know not the species. They are always in flight and have no familiarities of those my knowledge contains. They bury their eggs in the sand on the beach, although they never get a chance to hatch—the natives dig them out about as fast as they lay them.

"Artificial blonde hair has become a common recent appearance on the natives. Peroxide is the cause of such, and they will give most anything for it. They also use the Atabrine pills to tint their hair. As every place else, they are concerned in swapping. At present their preference is rice or corned beef. Their articles consist of war clubs, grass skirts, sea shells, bananas and even chickens. Some can hold very good conversation in English as well as write it.

**Our own "Bill" Miller of the Division of Accounting and Budget "somewhere in France" with a hare he bagged between times. Sergeant Miller is hopeful of bagging more than the trophy he displays as time marches on. Good hunting, "Bill."**

"I have been receiving the PENNSYLVANIA GAME NEWS and look forward to it. It has news that letters do not usually contain. Many pictures are very familiar, as well as names. The piece of news in the December issue relative to the native bird of New Zealand, namely Kiivi-Kiivi, is quite familiar. It is a protected bird and not too plentiful, due to extreme killing in past years. The original New Zealander, the Maori (Mar-e), used the bird feathers to make cloaks or robes. If you could see such robes, it would be easy to understand the enormous amount of birds necessary for just one robe. My experience proved New Zealand to be a very great outdoor sportsman's land. Great times I had there could not be written in black and white due to space. I still possess a pair of wild pig tusks from a tough day's hunt but a very enjoyable one.

"Looking forward to that day in 19—— something when one and all may return to their respective home lands."—Don J. Blessing, Carpenter's Mate, First Class. (Deputy Game Protector of Cumberland County)

---

"Wish you had your camera around these parts—a little colored film would be a marvelous thing. The parrots, they're so tiny and so beautiful. They become quite tame and make quite a contrast to the drab khaki uniform. You'd love the green orchids, the hibiscus and the coral. Palm trees are now ugly to me. You should get some of the views from the air in these parts. The coral spots in the water, the coconut groves, the shapes of the little islands. I've been doing a bit of flying over *most* interesting spots in a Piper Cub. What a world—what a life!

"We haven't used our foxholes much lately. I'm not crying about that either. There was a time, however, that we stuck pretty close to them. It was excitement and certainly something to look back on and talk about.

"I do miss all the Game Commission folks. Wonder if I'll know any of them by the time I get back to Harrisburg. I'm beginning to feel as though I've spent most of my life in a tent in the jungle with either the sun melting me or the rain drowning me. I've

gotten to rather like it and wonder if I'll be able to get into the swing of civilization again. I was as timid as a cave man when I went to Sydney on leave, and relieved to get back to the "war" living we've been doing. Of course, when we get relieved of the war itself, it'll be glorious to adjust to civilization and *SIMPLY SWELL* to get home again."—Mary Elizabeth Brown, ARC, 155th Station Hospital, APO 926, c/o P.M., San Francisco, California. (Formerly in the Division of Predatory Animal Control)

---

December 24, 1944.

"Dear Folks:

"It's Xmas Eve and I'm just sitting here watching the smoke from my pipe curl up past the dancing shadows on the tent wall. The candles we use are the only thing here that looks like Xmas, but you can feel it. I guess you would know when it was Xmas even if you lost track of time.

"There's nothing doing here. Some kind of program at the Red Cross, but Jerry and I are just sitting here writing. It would be nice to be home now to see the tree, the snow and I suppose heard Frank S. and his sleigh going up the road.

"It would have been nice to go hunting with you Dad, to walk through the woods and fields all white and still. The only noise, is the snow crunching under your boots or a whispered word. I'd like to see the little birds swaying on a goldenrod picking of those precious seeds, or a rabbit bouncing toward the woods. To hear a couple shots ring out in the crisp air, then silence, what's that, a twig snapped, then crashing and bounding out of the woods, a buck. It's all happening so fast, you fumble with your safety, numb fingers, heart pounding, knees shaking, raise your gun, level it, squeeze off, you hardly hear the report or feel the stock bump your shoulder, all you are aware of is the deer skidding and sprawling, the snow flies and he is lying there in a heap. He's up again, but before he takes a step you pin him. Then it's all quiet again, run up to him, there he lies twitching. Gosh he looks big, let's see, two holes in the shoulder, one, two, three, four, eight, nine points. Now you feel like a new guy. You're in a class all your own, seems like your buck is a lot nicer than the rest you see on the other fenders, or hanging from a front porch. You can sit back with the rest of the fellows when the stories are passing back and forth and say, sure I got mine, last season, nine points, only needed one shot, but took another to make sure. Yeah we wuz just goin' toward the woods and I . . .

"I sit around and think up that kind of stuff all the time. There's nothing else to do. Got a letter from Bob. He thinks I'm in Florida.

Enough. Merry Xmas.

JIM.

---

"We are kept busy and not much time to o out, but did kill a few wild chickens one ve. They act just like our ringnecks. Run ike hell and get up wild. They come out o feed early morning and late afternoon. ther times they are in the jungles and you annot get through to them. Also some wild igeons fell to my trusty gun. They are wice as big as our tame ones and twice as fast. Killed a few doves, the same as we have at home.

"Had a two day deer and wild boar hunt planned, but could not go. Will try for them later if all goes well. Quite a lot of wild parrots here. Small and all colors. The wild chickens are all bright colors—yellow, green, red and very pretty. They are about the size of our grouse, but not so fast on the take off. It would be easy picking if they would stay put. Had some Aussie shells. No good. Two and one-fourth drams powder to one and one-fourth ounce shot, so you can see they have no punch.

"If I had my gun and some good old Peters H. V. No. 7½ I sure could talk to them.

"Some of the mountains look like Warren County while some look like the west. Sure enjoy being among them. It is awful hot and dusty during the day, but cool at night. Too hot to hunt from 11 A.M. to 3 P.M.

"Was lucky enough to meet some Pigmy natives. To me they have the best eye and are so far superior to any tracker I have ever seen. The Japs sure hate to have them on their trail and I do not blame them. They are past masters with the spear and bow and arrow.

"The only regret I have is not enough time to spend with them and no camera for a few pictures. Do not have a camera, so that is out.

*(Continued on page 19)*

**With a Fifteenth Air Force Service Command Air Service Group—Italy: Sergeant Frederick W. Koppenhaver, R. F. D. No. 1, Millersburg, Pa., and Staff Sergeant Edward J. Cordiner, of 315 Petterman Street, Laramie, Wyoming, of an Ordnance Company with two deer they bagged at Mussolini's hunting lodge in the Umbrie forest in Italy. Don't you fellows know there is a stiff penalty for bagging the "king's deer?"**

## Repellants for Victory Gardens

1. Dried blood may be used as a dust, in which case add 5% flour and sprinkle the dust directly on the plants when they are moist using about 8 ounces to 25 lineal feet of row. If applied as a spray dilute dried blood with water and add one half of 1% flour or some kind of mild soap to the mixture and apply directly to the plants.

Dried blood is also an excellent nitrogenous fertilizer and an oversupply of nitrogen may result from too frequent applications.

2. Two tablespoonfuls of powdered alum mixed with one quart of wheat flour used as a dust. Mix well and cover plants thoroughly.

3. Ordinary fine tobacco dust of the usual insecticide grade dusted thoroughly over the plants. If used with powdered alum mix two ounces with one pound of tobacco dust.

4. A commercial grade of aluminum sulfate may be used as a spray. Cover foliage thoroughly. It can be easily washed off edible plants such as lettuce. The following formula is suggested:

| Spray Formula | Large Lot | Small Lot |
|---|---|---|
| Aluminum sulfate (commercial grade) | 5 pounds | 4 teaspoonfuls |
| Hydrated lime | 20 pounds | 5 tablespoonfuls |
| Water | 100 gallons | 1 gallon |

5. Arsenate of lead mixed with a nicotine compound such as Black Leaf No. 155 makes a good rabbit repellent, but it must not be used on any mature edible plants such as lettuce or swiss chard. It may be used on cabbage until the head begins to form. Do not use on beans since arsenate of lead may burn the foliage. For these plants substitute cryolite in the same proportions. The following formula is recommended:

| Spray Formula | Large Lot | Small Lot |
|---|---|---|
| Black Leaf 155 (a nicotine compound) | 6 pounds | 7 teaspoonfuls |
| Arsenate of lead | 6 pounds | 3 tablespoonfuls |
| Sulphonated oil | 2 quarts | 4 teaspoonfuls |
| Water | 100 gallons | 1 gallon |

6. Tincture of asafoetida used as a spray and mixed as follows: 3 teaspoonfuls of tincture of asafoetida, 6 tablespoonfuls of powdered alum and 1 gallon of water. Apply thoroughly to plants but do not allow moisture to drip onto the ground.

The following are some additional suggestions:

1. All teaspoonful and tablespoonful measurements are to be level.

2. When a duster is not available, a cheese cloth bag may be used to sift the dust upon the top of foliage. It is not essential to cover the under surfaces of the leaves with dust as is usually required with insecticides.

3. Dust should be applied early in the morning when the plants are covered with dew or immediately after a rain (precautions should be taken when dusting wet plants especially beans. The moistened plants should not be touched by the equipment or body.)

4. The upper surfaces of the leaves should be thoroughly covered with spray. The compressed air sprayer is the most satisfactory, but if no sprayer is available a whisk broom or brush may be used.

5. Flour, mild soap, skim milk or some commercial spreader should be used with a spray so that it may adhere to the foliage for a longer period. If washed off by rain another application should be made immediately.

6. Powdered alum and tincture of asafoetida may be purchased at drug stores; dried blood from some fertilizer plant or a seed or hardware store. The other materials suggested may be secured at seed, insecticide, and hardware stores.

7. Fencing small areas may be a solution to the rabbit problem. If wire fencing is not available a heavy grade of tar paper may be used. Such fence should have a height of 18" and will require frequent and heavy stakes. All fences must fit tightly to the ground and it is preferable to bury a fence about 6" below the surface.

**Little "Georgie" Fox, of Harrisburg, proudly displays the results of his Dad's use of repellents—a bigger and better tomato. George senior is an ardent hunter and angler.**

# Do You Want To Raise War Dogs?

The Warren Field and Stream Club made an excellent patriotic and most worthy offer recently to furnish and raise war dogs and was advised as follows by Lieutenant Commander W. Newbold Ely, Regional Director, Dogs for Defense:

"The Marine Corps and Coast Guard have just arranged for joint procurement and I have the honor of being on the Committee.

"The writer had just gotten back from overseas and can assure you that there is a vital need for top dogs. The Marine dogs are used for scout and messenger dogs and the Coast Guard ones for guarding overseas Navy bases.

"The breeds we want exclusively are: German Shepherds (and Shepherd crosses) and Doberman Pinschers. I suggest you sound out your members and find whether they would prefer to concentrate on one of these breeds or if some would rather get brood bitches of one of the breeds and some others, the other breed. Both breeds are excellent.

"For those who want German Shepherds, I suggest you write Mrs. Harry Tompkins Wayne, Pa. Mrs. Tompkins is the editor of the *Shepherd Review*, a lady of the highest integrity who knows where Shepherds of the proper temperament can be secured and will act as your purchasing agent without charge.

"For Dobermans you should consult Richard C. Webster, 4410 York Road, Baltimore 12, Maryland.

"My idea would be that your club purchase a few good brood bitches and then when they come in season either of my friends will tell you what dog to breed them to. You doubtless plan to distribute the puppies to be raised by members of the club. When the puppies are 14 months old one of our inspectors will come out and examine them. Those meeting the requirements will immediately be shipped to the training centers. The requirements are minimum height at shoulder 23 inches, minimum weight 55 pounds, alert steady, not timid, nervous, or gun or noise shy.

# The Mysterious Seventeen Year Locust

(Continued from page 11)

The cicadas' work will then be finished and Nature's cleanup will begin—but remember there are cradled youngsters ready to carry on seventeen years from now.

According to early writers, the Indians were familiar with the periodical occurrence of these insects. The red men associated the recurring swarms with pestilence and disease, a superstition that was in no way founded upon facts. Periodical cicadas are, however, the most spectacular and interesting of all insects and a knowledge of the extent of each swarm or brood is of considerable importance in the science of entomology. It is suggested that persons living in the territories visited by these insects report the occurrence of the swarms, giving dates of appearance and any additional facts which seem of value. These records may be sent to the Federal or State authorities for use in compiling a more accurate account of the distribution of the thirty or more broods.

**Egg punctures along twig and break where puncture weakened twig.**

## On and Off the Trail

*By* L. D. Readinger

Pennsylvanians are aghast at the astounding number of deer that are reportedly dying of starvation, malnutrition and other complications aggravated by lack of a proper life-sustaining diet, during this winter's unusually heavy snowfall.

By spring, thousands of these creatures will be nothing more than so many piles of putrifying flesh. Many will be partially eaten by foxes, skunks and other flesh eating animals and birds. Others will be left lying along our streams, in swamps and thick bottomlands, there to greet the early trout fisherman.

This tragic occurrence is nothing new in game history. It has happened in previous years on a lesser scale and will occur in the future. Starvation has ranged the woodlands many times. The North American Indian has in years gone by suffered greatly because a previous hard winter had decimated his chief winter's food supply, the deer herd.

In Canada, the land of seemingly unlimited game, the caribou and wapiti (or elk) has faced starvation many times. These periodic occurrences have, however, tended to reduce the herds to a degree that, in following winters, food was plentiful enough to support the reduced herd.

It was Nature's way of maintaining a proper balance, and Nature is extremely ruthless.

To say that Pennsylvania's deer will benefit from this winter's "white death" may be fantastic, but it's true. The same results, however, could have been achieved by an open season on both does and bucks, size unlimited, had we been gifted with foresight.

Artificial feeding programs as carried out by organized sportsmen are getting good results in many sections. But compared to the huge expanse of deer country, they are only scratching the surface. Tens of thousands of deer will never be fed in this manner.

We are faced with problems that are verably unsolvable.

Our forests are growing up. What was excellent deer country, from a food standpoint, two decades ago, has grown to the point where all reachable undergrowth has been choked out by pole-sized trees. These trees spread a canopy of foliage so thick that the succulent underbrush, sought by deer for browse during the winter, refuses to spring up. What does put forth an effort soon dies for want of sunshine.

I am not much in favor of widespread artificial feeding stations throughout the deer range, as has been suggested. This would tend to domesticate the animals, making them more and more dependent on man. We must keep them as wild as possible or "shoot fish in a puddle."

We can ruthlessly reduce the deer population each year in keeping with the available food supply or we can reduce our forest lands to slashings that will provide ample food and cover for deer, as well as rabbits and grouse. We must sacrifice one or the other.

Our timber lands can be cut sufficiently to gain the desired results and yet our watersheds and marketable timber can be retained. With proper supervision and cooperation from state and national forestry departments it would be possible to cut over large areas in great checkerboard squares. One huge square cut, another left uncut and so on. It would be a tremendous undertaking but it would provide work in an uncertain postwar period.

You can't have your cake and eat it, too.—*The Brockway Record,* February 23, 1945.

## Odd Facts

Strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, currants, plums, apples, peaches, apricots and some other common fruits contain oil of wintergreen.

Nearly 20,000,000 fur-bearing animals were taken in the United States and Alaska during 1943; the fur catch was worth approximately $100,000,000 to the trappers.

Several hundred American muskrats, imported from the United States into Siberia in prewar days, acclimated quickly and their offspring have furnished tens of thousands of skins for Russia in the past few years.

## WITH THOSE IN THE SERVICE

(From page 17)

"We are kept quite busy now. Lots of things to keep us going. Our outfit have sure given the Nips a bad time. Our group has 350 enemy planes to their credit plus some ships they have sunk. This is a new outfit, so we have not done so bad. Our group is credited with killing 574 Japs in one mission. Not bad. Lots of work to keep the guns all in order and clean.

"Be sure to tell the office force I said 'hello'."—S/Sgt. J. L. Latimer, 33013520, 460th Fighter Sq., A.P.O. 73, Unit No. 1, c/o Postmaster, San Francisco, Calif.

**Former Game Protector "Bob" Latimer, of Muncy Valley, now in Burma, with a Jungle Fowl and "porky" as he calls it which he shot for the Kachin beaters. Says Lieut. Latimer "They value the 'porky' highly as food" and further adds "the fowl provided us with a nice Xmas dinner that night." His letter was dated Xmas noon, Burma, 1944. One thing for sure Lieutenant: Burmese "porkies" don't chew up hunting camps—or do they?**

# ★ ★ ☆ CURRENT TOPICS ★ ★ ★

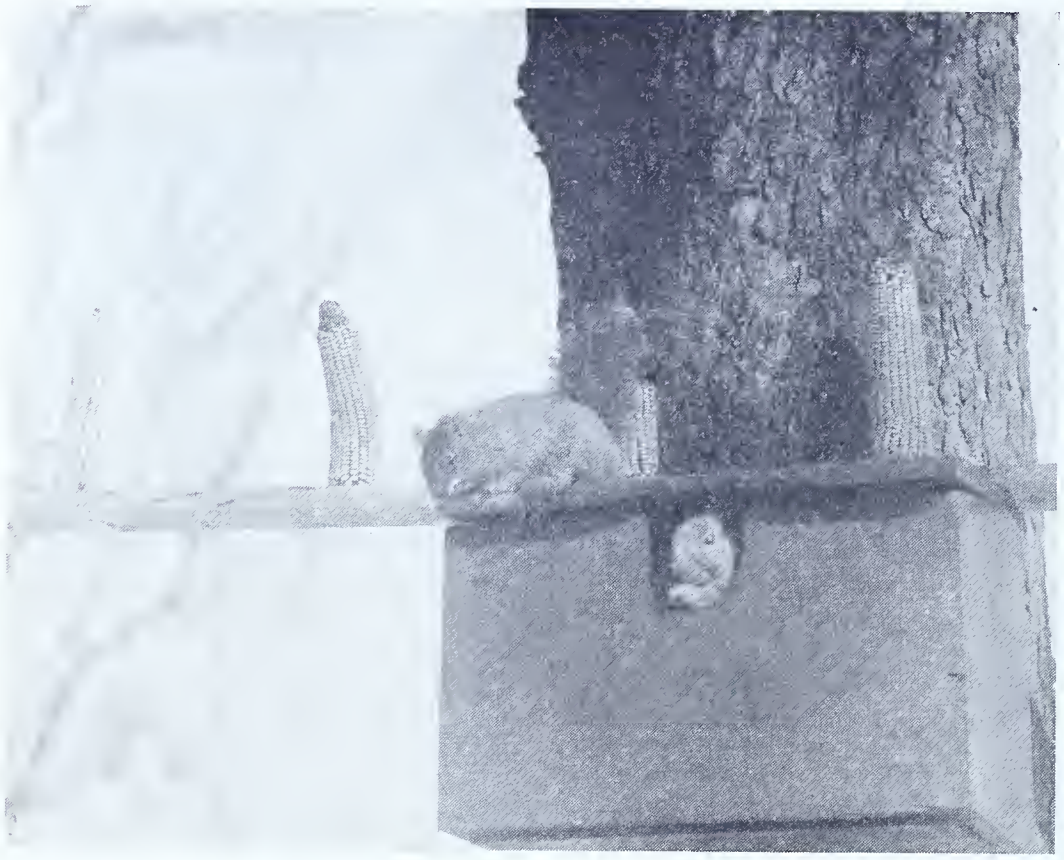


Photo by Allan Studholme.
Very particular are the squirrels in Capital Park, Harrisburg. During the recent severe winter the Game Commission decided to add a little corn to their usual diet of walnuts and peanuts, but the effort was apparently wasted. They scrutinized carefully the cereal donation, then dove into their feeding boxes and emerged with choicer fruits from unsuspected storage houses. Henceforth "Live and Learn" shall be our motto.

## Stolen

In or near Goldsboro, York County, an all white Great Pyreness dog weighing about 100 lbs. If found notify Alvin Zeigler of Goldsboro, Post Office, Etters.

## Rhyme It With Vine

That's the way to pronounce carbine, according to Winchester, developers of the Army's five-pound spitfire that will fire fifteen slugs as fast as you can pull the trigger.

Although military personnel who use the carbine sometimes prefer to call it car-bean or car-bin, the Army, Navy and Marine Corps prefer to rhyme it with vine. Nazis and Nips pronounce it deadly and let it go at that.

---

Pennsylvania sportsmen, but particularly fishermen, will be interested to know that there is a very excellent up-to-date folding map size 34 x 22" of Pennsylvania's streams available at the very nominal price of 50c. It was compiled by Johnny Mock, Sports Editor of the *Pittsburgh Press* and can be secured by communicating with him at that address. No outdoors man should be without this valuable publication which folds to 10½ x 4¼".

---

The Wilkinsburg Sportsmen's Club recently inaugurated a new educational program under which monthly meetings for sons and daughters and different youth groups will be held.

## "I Have A Boy"

*By* Hugh M. Pierce

I've a wonderful boy, and I say to him, "Son,
Be fair and be square in the race you must run.
Be brave if you lose and be meek if you win,
Be better and nobler than I've ever been.
Be honest and noble in all that you do,
And honor the name I have given to you."

I have a boy and I want him to know
We reap in life just about as we sow,
And we get what we earn, be it little or great,
Regardless of luck and regardless of fate.
I will teach him and show him the best that I can,
That it pays to be honest and upright, a man.

I will make him a pal and partner of mine,
And show him the things in this world that are fine.
I will show him the things that are wicked and bad,
For I figure this knowledge should come from his dad.
I will walk with him, talk with him, play with him, too.
And to all of my promises strive to be true.

We will grow up together, I'll too be a boy,
And share in his trouble and share in his joy.
We'll work out our problems together and then
We will lay out our plans when we both will be men.
And oh, what a wonderful joy this will be,
No pleasure in life could be greater to me.

The Colorado River, since the construction of Boulder Dam and Parker Dam, has improved immensely as a migratory bird hunting ground. The dams have caused the waters to clear and qualified observers estimate the migratory bird flights have increased 200% since the silt has been removed.

---

F. T. Schwob, State Conservation Director of Iowa says his state will have a minimum of 100,000 new licensed hunters and fishermen shortly after the war.

---

## Washington County Sportsmen's & Conservation League News

The Florence-Burgettstown Sportsmen's Club held a fox hunt January 14, 1945 on State Game Lands No. 117. This hunt was staged under very adverse weather conditions which prevented the best performance of both man and dog. No kills were made, but Reynard's sleek fur was somewhat ruffled on several occasions.

The Florence-Burgettstown boys were joined in the hunt by members from the McDonald, Langeloth, and Raccoon Sportsmen's Associations, and by other hunters from Coraopolis, Washington and Bridgeville.

District Game Protector Carl Stainbrook, with his amiable disposition, was much in evidence helping to prepare the food which was served in the Stone Headquarters of State Game Lands No. 117. Carl provided access to the shelter and conveniences and the Florence-Burgettstown boys furnished the food.

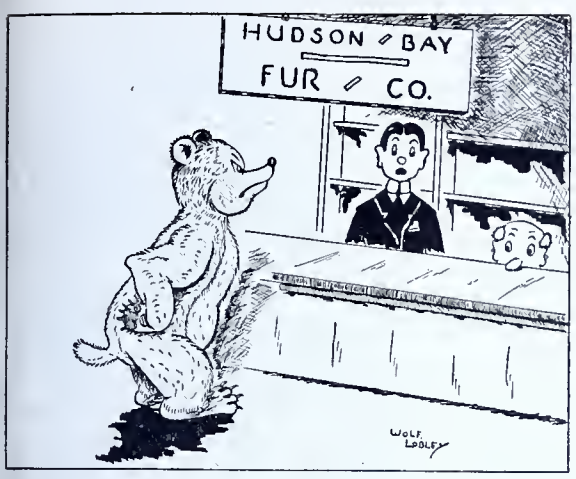
These are the kind of meetings which promote a fine spirit of cooperation and understanding, not only between members of different clubs, but also between Game Commission representatives and sportsmen.

The Pigeon Creek Sportsmen's Association released 119 ringnecks on October 4, 1944. Only five birds were lost out of the 124 six-week-old chicks they received. Nice going, boys!

McDonald Sportsmen also have a fine record. They released 147 birds out of the 150 they received.

The McDonald Chapter is also instituting a Training Program on "Safety and the Proper Handling of Firearms." Marksmanship and actual use of firearms under field hunting conditions has been arranged as a final requirement of the ten-week course offered in the McDonald High and Junior High Schools. The arrangement of this optional course was made possible through the fine spirit of cooperation of Supervising Principal I. J. Sargent. The course will be ably conducted by competent instructors.

The Washington County Coon Hunters Association will soon release 45 raccoons. The boys had 58 originally but 3 died and 10 are AWOL. These animals cost the association $290.00 which it paid with the receipts from its 1944 Field Trials.



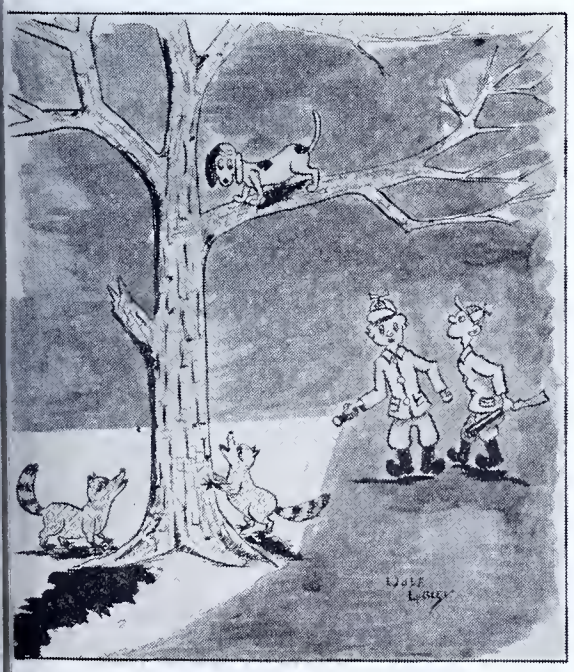

"He says he's looking for his wife—and he traced her to here."

## Halt, Reynard!

Following is an abstract from a letter from the Beacon Milling Company, Cayuga, New York, to Lt. Commander Newbold Ely, well known Master of Fox Hounds, and Regional Director Dogs for Defense.

"I have your letter in reference to the mixture to put around chicken ranges to keep foxes away and would say that this is simply a blend of twenty parts by weight of ordinary furnace oil and one part by weight of spirits of turpentine. This mixture is sprayed on the ground right around the poultry range or yard, making a strip about one and a half or two feet wide. Enough must be put on to show some damage to the grass. This treatment is repeated two or three times each year and has been found to be very effective.

"At the Beacon Poultry Research Farm, however, we have abandoned the above method in favor of electric fencing because we had heavy losses from dogs and these were not curbed by the spray. By using an electric fence and two wires, one about six inches above the ground and the other a foot higher we have secured perfect protection against both foxes and dogs, together with skunks and some other predators. It is, of course, necessary to keep the grass cut under the lower fence wire so that it does not short circuit the current, particularly in wet weather."



"Something must have gone wrong."

## Rabbit Fever Cure Hinted in Chemical

*(By Science Service)*

Rochester, Minn.—Hope that rabbit fever, or tularemia, may be successfully treated by a new chemical remedy of the same general type as penicillin appears in a report by Dr. F. R. Heilman of the Mayo Clinic here.

The new substance, called streptomycin, comes from a living organism that is halfway between a fungus and a bacteria, Actinomyces griseus, instead of from a mold as penicillin does. Streptomycin was discovered by Dr. Albert Schatz, Dr. Elizabeth Bugie and Prof. Selman A. Waksman of Rutgers University.

After test tube experiments showed that rabbit fever germs were very sensitive to the action of streptomycin, Dr. Heilman and associates, Miss Nellie Greenburg, Miss Mary Knutson and Miss Beatrice Bennett, gave it to mice that had killing doses of rabbit fever germs in their bodies. Of 30 untreated mice, all died of rabbit fever within 96 hours after being injected. The 30 mice which got daily doses of streptomycin for 10 days all survived.

The results of this study, Dr. Heilman says in his report, suggest "that this drug may be useful in the treatment of tularemia (rabbit fever) in man."

Tularemia, he also points out, is a widespread disease, killing from three to five of every 100 persons it attacks. Even when it does not kill its victims, they are sick from four weeks to several months. A serum has been developed which helps in some cases, but the serum itself has caused illness in as many as half the patients. Neither penicillin nor sulfa drugs has been effective as a remedy.

Laboratory tests and studies of animals are the basis for the hope that the condensation product of tocopherol and inositol will be an effective remedy for progressive muscular dystrophy. This disabling disease is characterized by marked weakness associated with degenerative changes in the affected muscles.—*Pittsburgh Press.*

---

Antelope cannot live in the woods; they like open country.

---

The United States Forest Service estimates that the drain on the forests of the nation in 1943 amounted to nearly 17 billion cubic feet, and exceeded total growth by 50%.

---

A pet fox kept chained to a dog kennel and fed bread and milk soon neglected this food but remained in good condition; later it was found that he used the bread and milk as bait to attract barnyard chickens, whose feathers he hid in the kennel.

---

Polar bears and chow dogs are the only animals known to have black tongues.

---

The wild cabbage, a plant of the French invasion coast and other places in the western edge of Europe, is the reputed ancestor of the many forms of cultivated cabbage and kale.

## Game Commission Employs Specialists

**Ralph E. Britt, Smithfield, Fayette County, entered the service of the Game Commission as an Administrative Assistant, Division of Propagation, on March 16. Mr. Britt has a splendid background for his new work, having obtained a B.S. degree in Poultry Husbandry at the Pennsylvania State College. He worked on the Jordan Game Farm three summers while at Penn State. For two years he edited "The Quill," official publication of the poultry judging team which placed first in New York City in 1938 and which judged at the World's Poultry Congress in Cleveland in 1939.**

**Mr. Britt received a Fellowship at Rutger's University where he secured his Master's Degree. Here he spent much time studying diseases and working on various phases of poultry research. He is the author of several valuable contributions to the advancement of the profession. In 1942 he was appointed poultry inspector in the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.**

**His new duties include helping with game bird propagation at the State Game Farms and at the farms of private game breeders, supervising the Commission's program of furnishing eggs and chicks to organizations, inspecting Commission contracted game bird stock, assisting with the Game Purchase and Distribution Program, and inspecting equipment of persons receiving eggs or chicks and advising as to proper methods of feeding and caring for the birds.**

**He personally has raised chickens, pheasants, ducks, guineas, bantams, and pigeons. His hobbies are collecting coins, raising White Wyandotte bantams, fishing, and hunting.**

---

## Fox Gets in the Doghouse

It happened when a group of Marcus fox hunters were running foxes in that vicinity with greyhounds. One of the dogs jumped a fox, which turned and fled directly toward the truck in which the hunters had driven into the country. Attached to the rear of the truck was the cage in which the dogs had been transported. The cage door was open, and as the fox crossed the road it swerved abruptly and jumped into the transportation cage, where it was promptly locked up by the hunters.

# She Laid an Egg

Only known spotted eggs of Goshawk in existence. Discovered and collected by Jackson Miles Abbott in Southern New Hampshire in 1941.

now a light, faded blue, but may have been, in years gone by, a blue as bright as the robin's. Eggs concealed in a hole need no protective coloring to hide them from enemies; they are safe from most egg-destroying prowlers. Foraging blacksnakes, of course, can enter any nest hole with the house wren's possibly excepted. Weasels and red squirrels can squeeze into the cavities drilled by woodpeckers as large as the Hairy or the Flicker; and could, if they dared, rob the Sparrow Hawk and Barred Owl, but these exploits would be as foolhardy as for a young porker to stroll into a sausage mill.

Granting, then, that eggs laid in a cavity are immune from the necessity of color camouflage, white eggs glowing in the dark shadows of the nest hole are probably more readily discernible by the brooding bird than would be those of any other color. The starlings' and bluebird's custom of laying eggs in old woodpecker holes and natural cavities has possibly modified their color to their present pale blue, which may well eventually fade out to the white shown in the eggs of the majority of hole-nesters.

There is but one North American bird left which has, to date, successfully concealed its nesting place from man: the Marbled Murrlet, a Pacific Coast sea bird that is thought to nest in a burrow, far inland in the northwest.

In July 1940 the only other species that had eluded white men's search for so long, Ross's Snow Goose, gave up its sanctuary to two intrepid explorers, Angus Gavin and Ernest Donovan. These Hudson's Bay Company naturalists found this smallest of snow geese nesting near Queen Maude Gulf, Arctic Ocean. Thus ended eighty years of search for the home of this dainty little waterfowl, about the size of a mallard duck. The nests were on small islands in a lake at the headwaters of a tributary of Perry River; they were nestled among boulders on the ground, with a base of coarse grass, plentifully lined with white down. Four to six creamy white eggs constituted the clutch.

Dr. (now Major) George M. Sutton of Cornell found the hidden, cup-like nest of the Harris Sparrow sunk in arctic moss in the Hudson Bay country in 1931.

Several other hitherto unknown homes of native birds have been found since the turn of the century: Kirtland's Warbler, known to nest only in one or two counties of the Michigan peninsula. There, on the ground, hidden under some low-growing bush, its concealed cup of grasses and leaves was found.

The nest of the Wandering Tatler, a rather large, mottled shore bird, was first found in 1912 on a gravel bar of a stream flowing into the Arctic Ocean, near the boundary between Alaska and Canada.

On May 28, 1926, Joseph Dixon found four buffy, mottled eggs of the Surf Bird in a natural depression in the carpet of arctic tundra in the white sheep country of the Mt. McKinley region in Alaska. This ended years of search and speculation about the nesting habits of this grey and white speckled shore bird, a link between the plovers and turnstones, which migrates in fall and winter down the Pacific Coast as far as the Straits of Magellan.

Other great rarities among birds' eggs would include those of the Ipswich Sparrow, White-Tailed Kite, Trumpeter Swan, Whooping Crane, California Spotted Owl, Mt. Pinos Grouse, Yuma Clapper Rail, Lesser Yellowlegs and Solitary Sandpiper.

In Pennsylvania among the rarest eggs are

*(Continued from page 7)*

the Wild Turkey's, Northern Raven's, Pileated Woodpecker's, Duck Hawk's and Goshawk's. The latter lays dull white, clouded eggs, very similar to those of the Cooper's Hawk. There is one known set in existence where the eggs are spotted, a photograph of which, with the nest, accompanies this article.

But, because a certain egg is rare does not necessarily indicate that it is of surpassing charm. True the cream and chocolate ovals laid by a white-tailed kite are probably unrivaled in oölogical beauty. However, the lustrous sea-green jewels placed in May or June by our common catbird in her bark-encircled nest is a treasure equally as thrilling to the eye for color. Look for them in any thick-foliaged shrub in your back yard; *but*—don't touch them! Photograph them if you will—and carefully; but leave them undisturbed, for Nature's secrets, which she reveals to persistent seekers, yield many enchanted hours if we will come only to carry away memories.

## N. R. A. RESOLUTIONS

At a Board meeting of the National Rifle Association on February 2, 1945, in Washington, D. C., some very worthwhile resolutions were passed.

The first resolution concerned the plan to request the Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Navy and the Secretary of the Treasury, the Surplus Property Administrator and all other government officials concerned to require the sale of scrap form only of all surplus and obsolete small arms which are of the automatic or semi-automatic type, excepting the U. S. rifle, caliber .30 M1 (Garand) and the U. S. Pistol caliber .45 Model 1911 (Colt A.C.P.), shotguns and .22 rim-fire weapons.

The Association also decided to go on record as being unopposed to the use of semi-automatic rifles for big game hunting provided such rifles have a magazine capacity of not more than five cartridges, fire a cartridge developing adequate remaining energy to make a clean kill at normal hunting ranges, and are equipped with a device which can be easily seen and felt to indicate when there is a loaded cartridge in the chamber. The group further resolved to record its belief that no firearm should be offered for sale or permitted in the big game field if chambered for a revolver or automatic pistol cartridge, for the U. S. caliber .30 M1 carbine cartridge or any cartridge developing no more power than these.

There followed a lengthy discussion on the two resolutions, during which many members expressed the feeling that the subject warranted more extensive study than was possible at the meeting. Consequently Resolutions I and II were referred to the Executive Committee for further consideration.

The Association passed without discussion resolutions favoring:

The establishment of a program of universal military service with a minimum initial training of one year.

A request to the Secretary of War to make available to the National Rifle Association and to its affiliated civilian rifle clubs at a

*(Continued on page 32)*

"The condition of the deer in this section is not too bad. I know of about four that were killed by dogs. They would break through the snow so it wasn't hard for the dogs to catch them. In one section where corn was put out for them the animals never touched it but fed on the new growth of tree limbs within two feet of it. Haven't found any place where the deer yarded up. They seem to have moved about just the same as they always did."—Game Protector Edward Shaw, Leeper, February, 1945.

---

"With the breaking up of the severe winter and the snow melting away in places, the deer have descended upon the farms and open fields in herds of countless numbers. On February 24 while patrolling the Mitchell Creek Valley in Great Bend Township, Susquehanna County, I counted up to one hundred and fifty deer in an area covering approximately seventy-five acres of ground. This was by no means all of the deer in this particular area as many were in ravines and back of clumps of brush. This is by far the largest concentration of deer on any area that I have ever witnessed without doing a lot of traveling about. This condition is the same throughout the largest part of northern Susqeuhanna County. Despite the severe winter most of the animals appear to be in fairly good condition.

"With the closing of the beaver season it is believed the catch was equal if not a little larger throughout this section than last year. The usual crowd of experienced trappers were operating and they received a good break in the weather during the last week of the season when the thaw came."—Game Protector Howard F. Hoffman, Susquehanna, February, 1945.

---

"Noticed some nice grouse on the south side of the mountains where the snow is gone; very few on the north side where the snow is quite deep.

"Up to this time I have not found any dead game, small or large, that died due to the deep snow or lack of food."—Game Protector Raymond E. Holtzapple, Middleburg, February, 1945.

---

"The deer in this section are in fine shape in spite of the worst winter since 1936.

"The farmers and sportsmen all helped by hauling apples, hay and corn into the mountains and that, together with the cutting done on game lands, will see the herd through in fair shape."—Game Protector R. F. Turley, Martinsburg, February, 1945.

"The deer are following the timber cutters in Dothan valley and are staying right there. The floor of the forest in this section is starting to bare off nice, the first since the beginning of winter."—Game Protector D. H. Franklin, Strasburg, February, 1945.

---

"While cutting browse in Fisk Hollow on State Game Lands No. 59 on February 13 we found eleven dead deer along about a half mile of the stream. All were fawns except one and it died from getting its foot caught between two trees while reaching for food."—Game Protector Cecil D. Hancock, Port Allegany, February, 1945.

---

"Today a feeding caravan from Greensburg and vicinity came into the Lynn Run section under the supervision of District Forester V. M. Bearer. They cut deer browse on Department of Forests and Waters lands along refuge. There were about 30 men doing the work.

"Up to this date I have not found any deer dead from starvation, nor have had any reported dead.

"All other game seems to be getting along very well, but I am having some complaints of stray dogs running at large."—Game Protector Wm. G. Matthews, Rector, February, 1945.

"Thus far I have 12 dead deer in the Hicks Run section. All of these were small. All wildlife has had a real tough winter. The deer destroyed tons of future grouse food in the form of Hercules Club and Sumac. The bark has been eaten from these shrubs up as far as the animals could reach."—Game Protector George E. Sprankle, Emporium, February, 1945.

---

"Deer are coming out in open spots now and they seem to be O.K. If brush cutting operations will not pull my deer through the winter, then there must be too many deer here.

"Grouse tracks seemed almost entirely missing this winter. Rabbits have eaten and destroyed a lot of my shrubbery and I was keeping some grain out for them. I have fed three covies of quail and had two farmers feeding more.

"Most beaver dams were frozen and trapping was not so good. One dam on Game Lands No. 39 had open water and I am sure four beavers were taken out. I have a large area of aspen down Sandy Creek well below the refuge but never seem to have beavers there. And most of them are building dams with aspen almost entirely missing.

"After a winter like we have had I expect considerable deer damage claims when they go for the wheat."—Game Protector Ralph H. Ewing, Polk, February, 1945.

---

"The artificial feeding program carried on by sportsmen's clubs and per diem labor has saved many a deer and turkey in this section.

"It is surprising the number of small fawns that have survived so far. However, the going is still plenty tough for all wildlife.

"I have reports from gas well workers that over one hundred deer are coming into cuttings near where the refuge keeper's house sits on State Game Lands No. 28."—Game Protector Edward R. Richards, Portland Mills, February, 1945.

**Ray Miller registering at the first "sons and daughters" night sponsored by the Wilkinsburg, Allegheny County, Sportsmen's Club. This Club has been setting some very fine examples for other associations to follow and several leaves from its books would not be amiss. They are in there batting and no fooling. A word to the wise is sufficient.**

"Although there are not so many beavers in this district, the catch was very light. It hardly averaged one beaver per dam or colony. Conditions were fair for trapping and there were a goodly number of trappers out to attempt to take the limit. We can certainly stand another season on beavers next year as the catch did not do much harm to the present population.

"I have never seen the snow buntings as numerous as they were this winter. Ordinarily if we see these birds once or twice during the winter months we are fortunate, but this winter they were a very common sight. A flock of about forty fed at the feeding box I maintained at Headquarters. They seemed very fond of wheat, and were not backward about visiting the station very frequently during a day.

"I have had a good chance to observe the condition of the deer. Have seen deer at least twenty days this month and all appear to be in good condition. Even the fawns seem to be in good flesh. On different occasions we saw deer in sections that had three feet of hard-packed snow. On one occasion we came across a doe and fawn on a blacktop road and, curious to know how they were able to travel in the deep snow in that vicinity, we forced them to leave the hard-packed highway and take to the woods. It was a difficult task even for the large doe to travel at all after the first jump. The fawn floundered and was forced to stop for wind after about 100 yards. Nevertheless, both deer were in very good flesh. In this vicinity the deer seemed to be working on the sumac exclusively. They would get astride the bush, ride it down, and eat all the tops down to sticks the size of a man's finger. In other sections the deer lived in and apparently never got out of the immediate vicinity of standing cornfields.

"This severe winter further proved to me that the ringneck is a hardy bird. He is also a smart bird. I have had many requests for feed for ringnecks and many people have reported to me locations where they had seen ringnecks regularly. In all cases the birds either came in through the buildings for handouts or had located a cornfield that was unharvested or some other special feeding area. It has been my experience that the ringneck will survive if there is any possible way to get food. And there is a very wide list of things that the ringneck will include in his diet. If necessary he will even feed on crushed rabbits on the highway. He will graze on winter wheat or grasses along a stream or any other succulent growth. He will feed on thistles and docks or any perenniel that has a succulent root even if he has to dig down in the ground several inches. He is not fussy about what kind of weed seeds he eats, but seems to be fond of burdock. He will even feed from the offalls from a farm butchering. Grain, of course, is much desired.

All in all he is a very desirable game bird and if it were not for the large toll by predators, especially the Cooper's Hawk, I honestly believe this bird would increase to a satisfactory number in this vicinity as we have no large interference with nesting by mowing repeated crops, and have sufficient cover that the hunter does not shoot them out."—Game Protector Raymond M. Sickles, Linesville, February, 1945.

"In checking at Game Lands No. 89 I find that the deer are in good shape where cutting operations are being conducted. On February 11 I found five dead ones, all small, and since then I found one killed by dogs. Of the six deer found I think three died a natural death and three were killed by dogs.

"Recent rains have bared many of the front hills and this makes the going for wildlife much easier.

"Grouse are showing up better since the weather has started to moderate, but are not too plentiful."—Game Protector Joseph W. Kistner, Howard, February, 1945.

---

"No. 10 coal tipple of the Rockhill Coal and Iron Company is situated approximately one and one-half miles northwest from the mining town of Wood, Pa. On February 20 at about 3:15 P.M. Preston Cohick, the car dropper at the tipple, was watching the shifter engine approach the siding to pick up a train of coal. Mr. Cohick was at a loss to understand why the engine was stopped about a half mile from where it was usually stopped. After quite a delay Cohick decided to investigate. When he approached he saw Engineer Rankin and Fireman Clark on opposite sides of the engine tossing snowballs beneath the engine. Closer observation disclosed that an opossum had been in the middle of the tracks and the engine had partly passed over the area where Mr. 'Possum was squatted. The train crew, not wishing to have the animal killed, were attempting to dislodge it from beneath the engine, in which they succeeded. They put the 'possum on the engine tender and moved up the tracks where the carcass of a deer killed by dogs was lying. Return-

*(Turn page)*

**Deputy Game Protector John B. Miller and Game Protector Manville B. Wells, both of Lewisburg, distributed a large amount of shelled corn in turkey areas in Union County last winter. The flights were sponsored by the Leisure Taxi Company of that town.**

**Above are other good samaritans of the clouds. Dick Speakman, left, aeronautics instructor at the Harrisburg Airport; Mark Motter, Dauphin County Game Protector, and Capt. Hal Murray, of Squadron 31 of the Civil Air Patrol who distributed a lot of shelled corn in turkey areas in Dauphin County.**

# Notes From the Field—*Continued*

ing with their load of coal a short time later they saw that Mr. 'Possum had already eaten a hole and was more than half inside the deer carcass. (The dog that killed the deer paid the penalty with his life to Deputy Protector Benjamin O'Neal of Wood, the same day of the killing.)"—Game Protector William Lane, Hustontown, February, 1945.

---

"This winter, which compared to the ones our grandfathers talked about, is just about a thing of the past. I was almost afraid to go back into the woods on bare ground as I expected to see most of our small game looking skyward and waiting for the buzzards to clean up the mess. I was surprised to find very little loss in Butler County. We still have a fine supply of grouse, deer, rabbits, raccoons and ringnecks on hand and we have some quail, although the loss appears to be heavy at this time. Grey and fox squirrels seem as lively as ever but the raccoons I have seen are very poor. They should fatten up soon, however, at the rate they are catching crabs out of the streams.

"We have undoubtedly lost some game, but the hardy, healthy specimens survived, and we have ample breeding stock left.

"A little publicity about the sport that can be enjoyed shooting crows over a live Great Horned Owl should interest boys in reducing the owl supply as well as a few thousand black pests."—Game Protector R. P. Schmid, Slippery Rock, February, 1945.

---

"Animals are much more clever than we sometimes give them credit for being.

"A neighbor's cat was observed to scratch crumbs, placed for birds on a porch, to the ground. The cat hid under the porch and when sparrows alighted to get the crumbs he darted out to catch them.

---

"Twenty-five deer were observed in one group in Rockdale Township. Many complaints have been turned in by farmers who have had large quantities of corn eaten from shocks in the field by deer.

"Dogs have been running deer in the deep snow and in many cases killing them. It was reported that a small Spitz dog killed two deer on Presque Isle near Erie. I have observed house dogs so small that ordinarily one would never give them credit for causing damage chasing deer and giving them plenty of trouble in the deep snow.

"Trappers had a successful beaver season in both Erie and Crawford Counties. Many trappers used snowshoes and skis to get over the snow to trap creeks and ponds and for the greater part were rewarded with a catch of at least one beaver per trapper. Many took two. A very high percentage of blanket and large beavers were taken."—Game Protector Elmer D. Simpson, Cambridge Springs, February, 1945.

---

"I am quite certain that in Centre and Clearfield Counties more deer have been killed by dogs than were killed by hunters during the past season.

"To date I have shot twelve dogs that were in the act of chasing deer and wounded another. Out of the twelve killed five had collars and three carried out-of-date licenses; not one was licensed for the current year.

"We continue to persecute the red fox, the most beautiful, the gamest and smartest animal that inhabits our woods. The Game Commission continues to pay a bounty on so-called predators that have not yet been convicted of all of the things that some hunters have charged them with, yet our game supply is getting less and less.

"The worst predator of the whole lineup is the neglected dog, yet through recognition by certain training laws and failure on the part of certain officers and the owners, they are practically given their freedom."—Game Protector Elmer L. Pilling, Philipsburg, February, 1945.

---

"On February 18 five deer decided to explore the city of Warren. Four were none the worse for the experiment, but the fifth jumped over the railing on the Fifth Street Bridge and broke its neck on the ice in Conewango Creek. The others roamed in the Beaty School Yard for a while then paraded the nearby streets. After about an hour of this they decided it was much safer in the woods than trying to dodge automobiles and people so they headed for the mountains and home. Despite the deep snow and bad weather these deer were in excellent condition and as yet I have not found a single deer which died from starvation.

"From all reports the beaver season has been very successful in this section. Many of the trappers have their limit and a large number have one beaver. On the average the beavers weighed about 35 or 40 pounds, although I have several reports of 45 and 50 pounders. I saw two beavers weighing 64 and 65 pounds."—Game Protector George H. Burdick, Tidioute, February, 1945.

---

"On February 6 I made a return trip to the mother bear I found in hibernation on the Military Reservation in mid-January. On this trip I found her entirely covered by the heavy snow. With a stick I dug a small opening in her den and could see her golden eyes. I then heard the cubs whimper and the old bear started to growl. I could hear at least two different cubs. Apparently they were only a few days old.

"The catch of beavers in the Pocono Mountain section was only about 30% of last year.

"Although I understand that deer have

been starving in the neighboring counties I have yet to find a case of starvation in this section."—Game Protector Paul Failor, Mt. Pocono, February, 1945.

---

"On February 21, W. J. Bailer, retired Refuge Keeper, and I got 49½ bushels of culled apples at Peck's Orchard near Moscow. We distributed them in the Clifton and Thornhurst vicinities for deer and small game.

"Most of the deer which I observed were in good condition, considering the very severe weather and deep snow.

"On February 28 I found two small fawns which had apparently died of starvation and exhaustion. They were too small to buck the deep snow. I also saw 18 deer on this trip which appeared to be in good condition."—Game Protector K. D. Carroll, Thornhurst, February, 1945.

---

"In spite of the severe winter game in this section seems to have come through with a comparatively small loss. So far I have had reports of only eight dead deer being found. The majority are very small in size. One turkey, from a small flock that had been attending a feeding station regularly, was found dead. Probably the quail were hit the hardest due to driving winds and drifting snows."—Game Protector Ross G. Metz, Petersburg, February, 1945.

---

"I have been getting an average of five truck loads a week of waste fruits and leafy vegetables from the nearby markets. Excellent results have been produced from feeding this material in connection with grains and poor quality browse. Deer that have been getting it regularly during the past month have steadily gained in weight and are now in prime condition. I shall be interested to observe the quality of fawns produced by these does as compared to those dropped by those does that have not been reached in feeding operations. That many deer will survive that have not been fed at all I have no doubt. I have seen quite a number that could not possibly have reached the points where feeding was done; and many of them were in surprisingly good condition, although the losses in the young deer have been very heavy. In a herd of thirteen observed in an isolated ravine along the Erie Railroad only two were young deer, and neither of them looked like they would survive."—Game Protector L. B. Rosenkrans, Wilcox, February, 1945.

---

"This is the worst winter we have had since I have been in this division. Up until now the game is coming through all right thanks to the feeding program being conducted by sportsmen's clubs and individual sportsmen.

"Since we are unable to furnish enough feed, the clubs have bought and put out large quantities of corn, apples and green stuffs."—Game Protector R. F. Turley, Martinsburg, February, 1945.

---

"This winter has certainly been a hard one on game. The game that survives will be lucky indeed. The snow has been so deep that most of the roads have been blocked since December 11. My feeding activities have been very limited on this account. Much of my time is used trying to keep open the road to headquarters. I have been feeding a few turkeys, but the bluejays are eating a great deal of the feed."—Game Protector George E. Sprankle, Emporium, February, 1945.

---

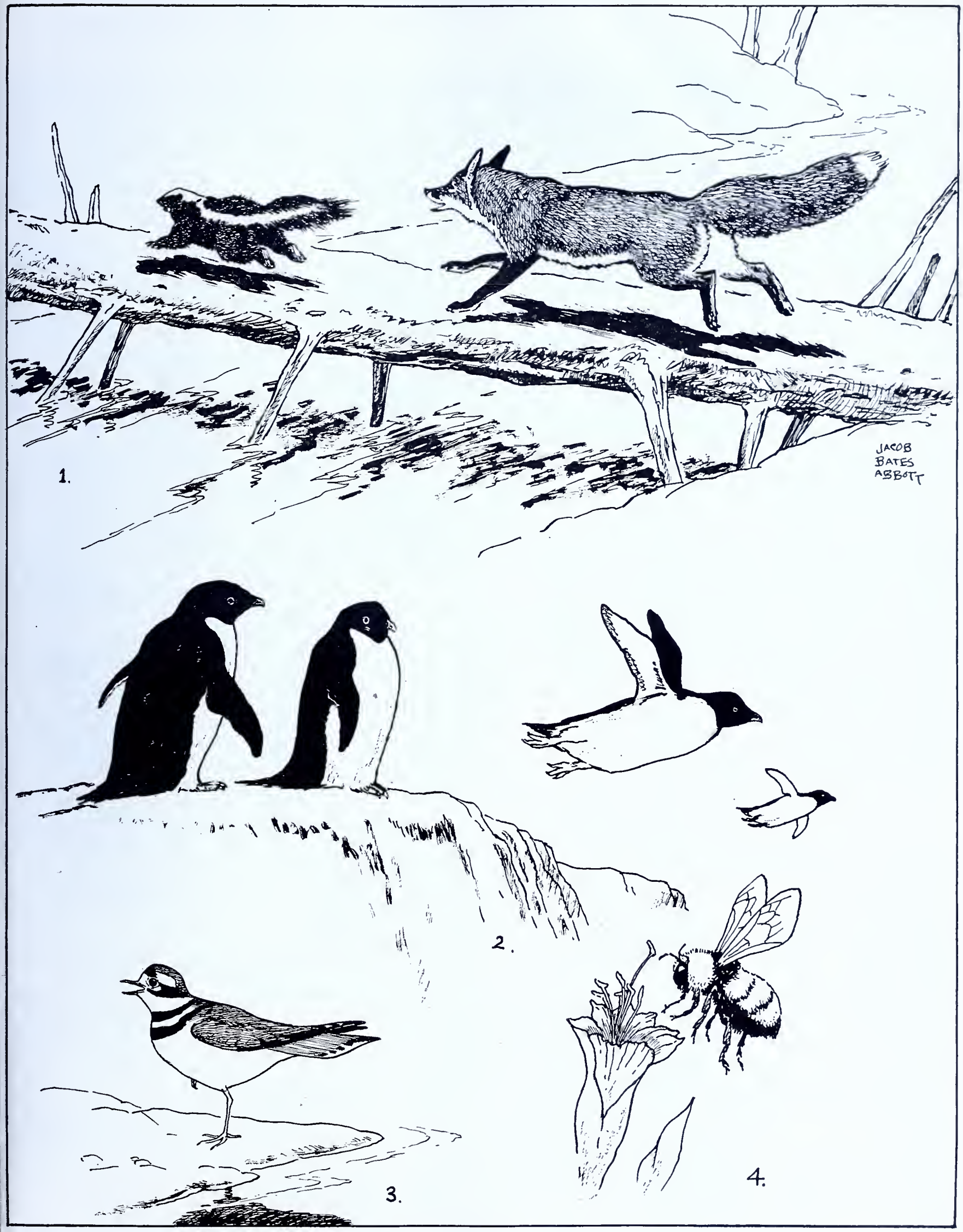
"The snow on the flat is 32 inches. Practically all small deer will die. The roads are nearly all blocked here."—Game Protector Ernest Hunsinger, Conrad, February, 1945.

Photo courtesy Harrisburg Evening News.

**The smiling young woman with the big buck is Mrs. Herbert Steigerwalt, of New Cumberland, Pa., who killed the splendid trophy with one shot while she and her husband were hunting near Maytown, York County, last season. It was the first wild animal she ever killed.**

"On February 13, just as the teacher at the Buckingham school at Equinunk had dismissed school for the afternoon, the children noticed that two dogs had chased a small button buck deer down off the mountain in back of the school and were preparing to kill it. The animal had already been bitten and was bleeding. The children immediately went to the rescue and after driving the dogs off with dinner pails, etc., carried the small creature to the coal shed. When I visited the school the next day it was still in the shed.

*(Continued on page 29)*




**WHAT'S WRONG?—Answers on Page 32.**

# "My Dear Sirs"

(Continued from page 9)

Snow Bound, Pa.
December 16, 1942.

The Fox Paw Scent & Equipment Co.
Snow Bank, Maine

My Dear Sirs:

Well it looks like Virginia isn't going to wear a Punkmier fur this winter or the next unless I get more foxes which to now is none. Poor kid she was depending on me too and told the other girls that I was going to get her a fox for Xmas. Last night the sportsmen club gave out prizes for the most foxes caught and the most other vermin caught and killed. I won first prize on the possums caught and the last or booby prize for the least foxes caught which was none. The oposum prize was a book called fun with foxes which I have seen before and the second or booby prize was a song sheet called nya nya said the little fox nya nya you cant catch me. Everybody laughed at me and Mr. Lee lead all the rest since I guess hes still mad about his clothing getting all smelled up and stuff. He said Lew stand up and receive your prizes which I did. Then he said gentlemen you have all read the book which I am going to present our Lew—fun with foxes—but I want you to meet fun for foxes in the flesh. If you want to know how not to catch em ask Lew since he is the only one who hasnt caught one. I said o kay have your fun but Ill show you. Then Tom Wells showed off his 43 fox pelts in front of everybody and got first prize a sheep lined coat but I had one so I didnt care. Mr. Lee said now Lew take a *good* look at those furs so youll know what one looks like. Then everybody laughed again. I just said o kay. Tom makes his own scent and said he didnt like Red Raider and Gray Ghost that it wasnt much good for foxes. Maybe nobody catches foxes with your scent in which case there will be a lot of ties for your low prize. How about prizes for the most skunks and oposums of which I got a lot.

Very truly yours,
LLEWELLYN PUNKMIER.

Snow Bank, Maine,
December 20, 1942.

Mr. Llewellyn Punkmier
Snow Bound, Pa.

Dear Mr. Punkmier:

One swallow doesn't make a summer or does one trapper's opinion constitute a final judgment of the merits of our products. We are, therefore, totally uninterested in either your opinion or that of Mr. Wells concerning our Red Raider and Gray Ghost Fox Scents.

In your own interest may we suggest that you re-read, Fun with Foxes, or have someone read it for you—or to you. Perhaps you would find something of value in, "Fooling Four Feet", Pussyfooting Paws or Rampaging Reds. We could supply these at $2.50 each.

It is apparent that you shall have to learn considerably more of fox habits before you may expect to trap them. It has been said that good trappers are born and not made. Sometimes we are convinced of the truth of the statement.

Naturally, we are exceedingly disturbed over your failure to collect a fox for Virginia. In the complete interest of our customers we shall be glad to advise you where good pelts can be purchased.

Very truly yours,
FOX PAW SCENT & EQUIPMENT COMPANY.

Snow Bound, Pa.
December 27, 1942.

The Fox Paw Scent & Equipment Co.
Snow Bank, Maine

My Dear Sirs:

Well Virginia got her Xmas fur allright but it wasnt because of your Red Raider or Gray Ghost scent. I bought one from a trapper who mixes his own scent. He caught 29 foxes this fall and winter but I beat him with skunks and oposums. Why dont you sell your stuff for skunks and oposums you could guarantee it for that stuff. And dogs and cats to. And sometimes crows and

rabbits. I am glad to learn that you are in the fur business to. Maybe next year I will want another fur or two. I got a hundred dollars almost in this trapping business and I guess a couple of more wont hurt much so send me fooling four feet. Maybe this guyll know more than Hyde & Hare. I hope so as their system dont work none here. Tom Wells passed me today as I was looking at my traps and he was carrying two foxes and nice ones to. So I bought another one from him. I wanted one for Aunt Mary. Tom is useing water sets. I said Tom how do you make your scents and he said well Lew theres a lot of different ways and some do and some dont foxes dont eat the same food or like the same smells year around. And then he hurried on. I knew then that he didn't want to tell how he mixed his stuff but I would have traded 3 bottles of Red Raider for his secret. Hyde and Hare says that every trapper has his own secrets even if they are the same ones. I don't have none as yet. Maybe sometime though I will have one. When I came home with the fox I bought from Tom Aunt Mary said well well well here comes a blind pig and his acorn and kissed me. You broke the ice Lew maybe your luck will be better from now on. Maybe your Red Raider is good afterall. But I know it isnt but Ill have to use it anyway its all I have.

Yours truly,
LLEWELLYN PUNKMIER.

Snow Bank, Maine,
January 5, 1943.

Mr. Llewellyn Punkmier
Snow Bound, Pa.
Dear Mr. Punkmier:

Thank you for your order of December 27. Your book "Fooling Four Feet" has gone forward. We are sure you will find this book complete and authentic. It should be a valuable aid in your trapping operations.

We call your attention to the chapters devoted to skinning and stretching pelts. These should be of particular interest to you.

The enclosed circular describes the most popular items we are offering at attractive prices. Look it over carefully, check your needs immediately and let us have your order promptly.

With best wishes for a successful trapping season, we are,

Very truly yours,
FOX PAW SCENT & EQUIPMENT COMPANY.

Snow Bound, Pa.
January 23, 1943.

The Fox Paw Scent & Equipment Co.
Snow Bank, Maine
My Dear Sirs:

Well I just finished reading fooling four feet and it aint no better than Fun with Foxes. I got to get them before I skin them and I aint skinned none but the one I bought from Tom Wells. Up to and including today I am the only one skinned. I dont want no more Red Raider or Gray Ghost in fact your special offer of six bottles dont fool me none or foxes either. My drying boards is still new all but one. Which is the one I use for the hide I bought from Tom. Posums and skunks aint running during this cold weather so I'm only getting crows and once in a while a dog. And cold feet.

Yours truly,
LLEWELLYN PUNKMIER.

Snow Bound, Pa.
January 27, 1943.

The Fox Paw Scent & Equipment Co.
Snow Bank, Maine
My Dear Sirs:

Sometime ago a state trapper was here to meet our club and show us how to trap foxes. He had a whole box of stuff including about six kinds of scent. I said how do you catch foxes and he said Ill show you and then he got down and did a lot of digging around like a groundhog. And said that should catch a fox. I said I tried that a hundred times and it did not catch a fox and then he said well it should. Anyway he stayed here for a few days but didn't catch any foxes and he wondered why. I told him to try Red Raider and Gray Ghost which he smelled and said I dont like that very well but he said he didnt know if

(Continued on page 32)

# The Farmer's Wood Bank

(Continued from page 12)

cumulation of crops in trees is the fact that the tax assessor does not distinguish between a value for the acre determined by its net income instead of a value made up of the accumulated crops for a great many years. As a matter of fact, however, such a proper method of determining assessment values may not reduce the current values used. Another very disturbing disadvantage is that a fire or other destructive force will destroy not one year's growth, but will affect the accumulations of years.

Just now war demands for wood have resulted in high prices. It is a good time to harvest wood crops, especially the older trees. The farmer will not only be cashing in from his wood bank but will be doing his part in helping to win the war in one more activity. But help is scarce and the fellow who does the cutting is in a hurry and out to make as much as he can, so if the farmer sells his timber it should be only after he has had the advice of the Extension forester from State College or a forester from the State Department of Forests and Waters.

The farmers of Pennsylvania have millions of dollars worth of value in their farm woodlots. They can double the amount easily by reforesting poor land and by better handling the areas now growing forests.

It is amazing how few of us do the best for ourselves and our community or accept the help of those who are willing to help in the things about which we know so little.

Cooperation should be the watchword of the day.

Photo by Department of Forests and Waters.
**The farmers of Pennsylvania have millions of dollars worth of value in their woodlots. They can double the amount easily by reforesting poor land and by better handling the areas now growing trees.**

## NOTES FROM THE FIELD

*(From page 26)*

The boys had fashioned a blanket for it and it appeared to be very comfortable. The boy who had carried the deer into the shed knelt beside it and began to pet it; in turn the creature licked his face. Now the animal has its freedom but insists on staying close to the school and will come and take cookies from the children's pockets. It appears to be very appreciative of the protection which it certainly is getting. The dogs were later killed by residents of the village. There were no license tags on either of them."—Game Protector Maynard Miller, Honesdale, February, 1945.

"While feeding deer and grouse in the Parkers Glen Hollow it was observed by Fish Warden Frank Brink, who was assisting the writer, that ruffed grouse were feeding in field corn, picking the kernels from the cob. A Mr. James Williams of Matamoras had corn in the Cummings Hollow."—Game Protector John H. Lohmann, Milford, February, 1945.

"Natural game food was very scarce last fall with the exception of wild grapes and dogwood. Due to the scarcity of food and the severe winter it was necessary to do considerable feeding from about the 15th of December on. We had very good cooperation from individual sportsmen and sportsmen's organizations. One small club furnished and placed in the woods one hundred dollars worth of feed. A great many of the organizations furnished considerable feed along with that supplied by the Commission."—Field Division Supervisor Wm. J. Davis, Huntingdon, February, 1945.

"At this date (March 1) we have plenty of snow together with a heavy crust, which makes it very bad for the game. On the south side of the mountains a few bare spots have appeared, and plenty of deer can be observed in those places trying to find something upon which to exist.

"The sportsmen in District 2 have responded wonderfully, carrying out feed, cutting browse—in fact, anything and everything possible to relieve this situation, and I must state it has been a tough bit of going. Although the sportsmen did all they could they were unable to go into the woods any distance without snow shoes, and a man without snow shoes this winter was just out of luck.

"While we will lose a large number of deer due to the extreme weather conditions we are not going to lose them all by any means."—Game Protector Clayde B. Kelsey, Port Allegany, February, 1945.

"During the last several days a herd of seven deer have been staying on an island in the Ohio River below Midland. This island is in plain view of the highway and every afternoon the workers going from Ohio to the Crucible Steel at Midland stop and watch the deer. As many as a hundred watched the animals at one time. They stayed until the animals took off across the river. About the middle of the month a deer made its appearance in the lower end of Beaver, where it stayed over night. Then it worked its way down the railroad to Vanport and thence to the country."—Game Protector J. Bradley McGregor, Beaver, February, 1945.

"Snow, snow and more snow. Roads are all closed in the vicinity of refuge headquarters and have been since January 29. Highway equipment has been tied up taking care of more important highways. Mail has been delivered to headquarters once since January 22. Game is having a tough time."—Game Protector Jack L. DeLong, Portage, February, 1945.

"A report came to me from a farmer of central Mercer County, of a genuine sportsman from a nearby town who appeared at his farm recently and asked permission to feed some squirrels in the woods.

"The farmer readily consented, and asked to join the sportsman and his small son, who had come along to assist in the feeding. Then the sportsman and son went to their car and took out nearly a bushel of walnuts, and about a bushel of hickory nuts they had picked last fall.

"The three then proceeded to feed the many fox and gray squirrels known to abound in the woods, which *are not posted*, and are open to public hunting.

"While returning to the house and car, the farmer asked the sportsman that he did not remember ever seeing him hunt on his farm or in his wood, to which the sportsman replied he never hunted squirrels at all, but would be glad to come out for a rabbit and pheasant hunt some time."—Game Protector Harold C. Sutherland, Jamestown, February, 1945.

"On February 16 I received a call from H. E. Barnhart, an oil gauger for the National Transit Pipe Line Company, reporting a dead deer on Reese Run. Game Protector Edward Shaw and I investigated, and upon arriving there found that a nice large buck had gone through the cracks between the planks of a bridge across the creek with all four legs. It had struggled to get out until exhausted, and then died. The rear legs were all skinned and swollen about twice the normal size."—Game Protector Floyd Beck, Venus.

# Review of the 25-Year State Game Purchase Program

*(Continued from page 3)*

Photo by Dr. Chas. S. Apgar.

State Game Lands No. 13, Sullivan County.

termination. The first appropriation, made by the Legislature in 1897, was the meagre sum of $800 to be stretched over a two-year period. This was followed by a like amount in 1898 and slightly larger appropriations were made during subsequent years. But it was not until after 1913, when the Hunting License Fee came into existence, that the Commission had anything like adequate funds with which to work.

Dr. Kalbfus served as Administrative head until August 10, 1919, at which time he met an untimely death while en route to view a large tract of land that was under consideration for purchase in Warren County. It was later bought and designated the Kalbfus State Game Lands No. 29.

*Start of the Refuge System*

At the turn of the present century, a few of Pennsylvania's far-sighted, conservation-minded sportsmen conceived the idea of creating game refuges. As early as 1902 the Commission included in its report to Governor William A. Stone a suggestion that limited portions of State Forest lands be set aside as game refuges by the Department of Forestry.

Since management of game was not considered a function of the Forestry Commission and no funds for such purpose were available, that department was unwilling to accept the responsibility of establishing and maintaining such sanctuaries.

A year later, Dr. Kalbfus in his Report to the Commission for the year 1903, recommended the setting apart of one or more tracts of forest reservations:

". . . . as a harbor of refuge into which game birds of all kinds can retreat, and be safe from harm at all times, surround these tracts with a single wire simply as a notice to hunters,—and I am satisfied the increase of game, deer and birds, will be very noticeable."

He added that the Forestry Commission seemed disposed to furnish the land for such purpose, leaving the question of wire, etc., to the Commission and sportsmen. Dr. Kalbfus' plan for surrounding refuges by a single strand of wire has been consistently followed for 40 years!

Nothing definite was done on the refuge idea until 1905, when an Act of the Legislature provided the needed legal authorization. That Act made it lawful for the Game Commission, with the consent of the Commissioner of Forestry, to locate within State Forest Reservations ". . . public game preserves, for the protection and propagation of deer, wild turkey, partridge, quail, woodcock, and wild pigeons, subject to such regulations as may be decided upon by the Board." Apparently no thought was given then to protection of bears, squirrels and certain other wildlife species. The Act also provided $6,000 for the establishment of such preserves, and for equipping, stocking and maintaining them.

With the granting of this authority, the Commission wasted no time in securing permission from the Commissioner of Forestry to establish in 1905 the first game refuge on State Forest Lands in Clinton County, which had for years been Doctor Kalbfus' favorite hunting ground. The Honorable John M. Phillips of Pittsburgh was appointed a member of the Commission that year, and being vitally and unselfishly interested in conserving the rapidly dwindling supply of game, worked diligently on the refuge plan. The following year two more refuges were created in Clearfield and Franklin Counties. By the latter part of 1915 ten such refuges, totalling 21,640 acres, were completed on State Forest lands. They ranged in size from 1740 to 3107 acres, and although not originally so intended, proved to be mainly deer refuges.

Several provisions of law with respect to refuges during the early period are of interest. For instance, the Act of 1911 provided for the following:

(a) No refuge should exceed a circumference of 9 miles.

(b) Refuges were not to be located within 25 miles of each other.

(c) The greatest transverse dimension of any refuge should not exceed 10 miles.

(d) No refuge should exceed in area one-half of the area of the State Forest on which located.

(e) Signs must be conspicuously posted around refuges containing the words "State Game Refuge; Hunting is Unlawful."

Laws governing the size and distribution of refuges on State Forest lands made it difficult to find enough suitable areas where there were no interfering permanent hunting camp sites. And since most of the State Forests were located only in the central and northern parts of the State, it was impossible to find sites for as widely a distributed system of refuges as was desired.

In order partly to overcome these stumbling blocks, the Legislature in 1915 authorized the Game Commission to lease suitable privately-owned lands upon which to create refuges and to provide public hunting grounds. Four tracts totalling 34,630 acres were leased that year, and two more during the next few years. The six tracts totalled 47,684 acres of which 14,140 acres were set apart as refuges, the remaining acreage being left open for public hunting. The Commission was obligated by the six lease agreements to pay all taxes assessed against this land. Taxes amounted to a substantial sum each year, and the Commission and sportsmen soon realized that leasing was not sound economy. It also realized that at least some private owners would be unwilling to renew leases at their expiration, but instead would convert to their own benefit the hunting rights made valuable through protection and management provided at the expense of sportsmen. There was nothing to prevent their granting hunting privileges to select groups in return for attractive rentals.

Another effort toward a wider distribution of sanctuaries, especially in sections less remote than State Forests, was made in 1917 when the Legislature adopted the Auxiliary Game Preserve Act. It authorized the Commission to lease the hunting rights for private lands of 250 acres or more without remuneration. Certain provisions appeared to landowners somewhat too severe and it failed. In 1919 a new and more simplified Auxiliary Preserve Act was adopted which authorized the Commission to fix regulations governing such preserves, and permitting the payment of a rental. However, no rental has ever been paid for any auxiliary refuge project.

Six auxiliaries totalling 3,600 acres were established by the end of that year, the full leased area being set apart as refuges, no provision being made for public hunting grounds surrounding them. It was not until the following year (1920) that the Commission policy of requiring that a portion of such leased areas remain open to public hunting was adopted.

*Birth of the Land Purchase Program*

The refuge system, once begun, gathered force like a rock rolling down hill. It's growth and development was inevitable. The purchase of land for such use, and to pro

vide public hunting grounds, was a natural sequence of events.

Dr. Kalbfus, in his report to the members of the Commission in 1918, after discussing refuge projects created on State Forests and leased lands, made the pertinent suggestion that lands be purchased from the Game Fund. Under this plan, game preserves would be a permanent and public hunting grounds guaranteed forever.

Sportsmen were practically unanimous in their support of the proposed plan to purchase game lands, and little difficulty was experienced in having the General Assembly adopt the needed legislation which became law on June 20, 1919. It authorized the Commission to purchase suitable lands by approval of a majority of its members, the title of such lands to be held by the Commission in the name of the Commonwealth. The Act specified that not more than $10 per acre could be paid, excepting in cases where buildings or cultivated lands were included in the survey or were deemed necessary to the proper maintenance of the lands desired. The act also limited expenditures in any one year to $50,000 except for the year 1919, during which up to $100,000 could have been expended.

The sportsmen's friend John M. Phillips, always a consistent and enthusiastic advocate of the land purchase idea, took a very active part in securing this momentous piece of legislation. With its enactment, the Game Commission promptly began its search for suitable tracts available at prices within reason.

At a meeting of the Commission held July 10, 1919, the members decided that special efforts should be made to find lands west of the Alleghenies before considering any tracts in the east. Indicative of the confidence and respect the other members held for him, Mr. Phillips was selected a committee-of-one to look up available suitable tracts in the western part of the State where there were no State Forests.

He submitted his report at a meeting held October 15, 1919, and the Commissioners tentatively agreed to purchase several tracts of 5,000 to 10,000 acres each, at not to exceed $2.50 per acre. It later developed that certain of the landowners concerned were unwilling to sell at the maximum price specified, and further consideration was given January 8, 1920 to some of these tracts, as well as to a few new possibilities.

By July 1, 1920, options had been accepted and land purchase contracts entered into for seven tracts comprising 45,598.3 acres, at an average price of $2.64 per acre. These seven tracts were in Bradford, Elk, Bedford, Blair and Cambria, Elk and Forest, Warren, McKean and Jefferson Counties and when finally acquired became State Game Lands.

The first transaction completed was for State Game Lands No. 25 in Elk County, acquired from the Wright Chemical Company by deed dated June 15, 1920. At that time, 24 primary refuges had been established on State Forests and privately-owned leased lands, which had been numbered consecutively. Consequently the number 25 was given to the first purchased tract. It is logical and appropriate that the proposed arboretum and memorial to Mr. Phillips be created within the boundaries of the first tract purchased from funds supplied by sportsmen.

Photo by W. Gard. Conklin, 1930.
**State Game Lands No. 59, in Bedford County.**

The birth of the game land purchase program might be considered as having taken place with the signing of the Act of June 20, 1919; or the action taken by the Commissioners at their meeting October 15, 1919; or the date of completion of the first transaction on June 15, 1920. Regardless of the date selected, it is safe to say that no program in the history of American wildlife conservation has been more fruitful of economic accomplishment than the acquisition of Pennsylvania's three quarters of a million acres of State Game Lands purchased during a period of 25 years.

During the 7-year period between 1920 and 1927, title for 12 blocks of State Game Lands totalling 92,641 acres, located in 14 counties, was vested in the Commonwealth for use of the Game Commission. This included three of the previously leased tracts, and was at that time considered a fairly large acreage. Its cost, paid from the hunters' fund was the rather modest sum of $284,939.02 for land, and an additional $38,000 more or less for boundary line surveying, title examining and vesting title. The average cost for land was $3.08 per acre.

As of May 31, 1927, in addition to the refuges on State Game Lands, there were 20 primary refuges totalling 45,613 acres on State Forests, 3 leased tracts totalling 22,808 acres, and 67 Auxiliary Refuge Projects totalling 92,500 acres, an aggregate of 102 managerial units comprising 253,562 acres.

*Two Important Early Policies*

Two of the first policies adopted with respect to lands purchased were (a) prohibition against hunting camps and, (b) compensating local government agencies for loss of taxes.

At the very start of the purchase program, sportsmen and the Commissioners deemed it unwise to permit camps of any kind, other than for official use, on any tract of land acquired. This policy has continued through the course of 25 years and was written into the law in 1937. Where a camp exists on a tract being purchased, the landowner is required to have it removed or definitely vacated before conveyance to the Commonwealth.

It may seem strange that hunters' camps are not permitted on lands bought with their money, whereas leases for such purpose are granted on State Forests. One reason is that most of the blocks of State Game Lands are small in size and the best game habitats are usually set apart as refuges. Such localities usually contain sites most desired for camps. In very few instances are there enough reasonably good camp sites with an ample supply of available water to provide as many camps as sportsmen might desire. Since all requests could not be granted it is best to grant none and thus avoid criticism of showing partiality.

Another reason is that holders of camp sites might be inclined to feel the area around their camps was more or less their personal hunting grounds, and if outsiders intruded trouble of one kind or another might result.

Commonwealth-owned property is not, under the Constitution, subject to taxation, so when title to game lands is acquired they are removed from assessment lists. If local government agencies were not reimbursed in some way, they would at least in some instances be seriously affected by the loss of taxes. Reimbursement is provided for by an Act of the Legislature authorizing the Commission to pay a yearly fixed charge of five cents per acre in lieu of taxes. Of this, one cent is paid to the County Treasurer for county purposes for each acre owned in that county, and two cents per acre each to the Treasurer of Township School Districts and to the Treasurer of Township Road Districts. Since 1920, fixed charges paid by the Commission and State Game Lands and State Game Farms have amounted to $422,512.23. Road districts received $168,309.72, school districts $169,503.53, and counties $84,698.98.

*(To be continued next month)*

## Answers to WHAT'S WRONG for April

1. A fox would not chase a skunk, nor would a skunk run away from a fox. Skunks move out of the way for no animals; even bears and cougars get out of THEIR way. Great horned owls and men's traps, and automobiles are about the only active agents that take toll of the skunk population.

2. Yes, you got this one. Penguins cannot fly.

3. All 8 North American plovers (of which the Killdeer, shown in the illustration, is one) with the exception of the Black-bellied, have only 3 toes on each foot. No hind toe.

4. All bees (order Hymenoptera) have 4 wings. Some of the big robber flies resemble bees, but all flies (Diptera) have but 2 wings. Bumblebee, shown in drawing, should have 4 wings.

---

## "MY DEAR SIRS"

*(From page 28)*

foxes would like it or not. I said they didnt. Then he said well why use it. Well we spent some few days in the woods and he said now try to make some scent this way and he told me what he thought was best. He said thats all yours was anyway. He told me about the bait to and said that some good trappers liked cat meat. Well I killed two cats and cold packed them like he said and thats where I got in trouble. Double trouble. One was Mrs. Lees cat Virginias mother not the cat I mean and someone told her that I was cutting up a cat and hers was missing. She came out with Mrs. Tomson to Aunt Marys place where I live and I walked right into the place unarmed. They really called me a lot of names but more polite ones than Mr. Lee and Don Neff called me. One funny thing she said was Lew you should be penned in a dark room your head needs developing. All because of an alley cat. Then Mrs. Tomson said well I cant hang you on circumstantial evidence but I know very well you killed my cat last fall and I said howd you know. I said Ill show you whats left of it and I went to the straw shed and brought in the last half of her cat the tail end of it and let her look at it. I guess she never saw it for the smell interfered with her sight. Both of these ladies made a dash for the back door and then hung to the close line white as a sheet. I mean the ladies were white and sick so sick. Mrs. Lee said you miserable punkinhead if I ever catch you in my house again Ill—I didn't hear what she said for I was on my way to the straw shed some distance from the house. And Aunt Mary said now listen young man if you cant stay out of trouble just you stop this trapping business and give those cows their silage I want to milk.

Yours truly,
LLEWELLYN PUNKMIER.

---

In notifying 38 officers of their permanent appointment, Earl Wallace, Director of Kentucky's Division of Game Fish, said "Under Civil Service status you become a permanent employee of this Division and nothing can interfere with your employment except that brought about by yourself."

## WANTED

Back issues of GAME NEWS to send to Servicemen. The Red Cross has offered to distribute them. If you have any copies you don't want send them to the Game Commission at Harrisburg and you'll be making a fine patriotic gesture.

---

## NRA Resolutions

*(From page 22)*

nominal price, surplus buildings to be converted into small arms ranges, range repair and storage buildings or instruction rooms, and to make such buildings available without charge to states and municipalities for use by its citizens in rifle training.

The inclusion of an adequate small arms training center and range to be supervised by a competent instructor and range master on permanent duty in memorial stadiums, auditoriums and recreation centers in each American community planning such a project.

Negotiations are now under way for the publishing of an "Overseas Edition" of the *Rifleman,* without advertising, for distribution through military channels to U. S. Service units on foreign duty.

**Thomas Ramage and Joe Glovack, Dilltown, Indiana County, with 38 gray foxes taken in Cambria and Indiana Counties during the fall of 1944.**

## NOTES FROM THE FIELD

"While trapping rabbits in this section, I visited my traps in the late afternoon for rebaiting for the night. As I check my traps each morning I was surprised to see one trap sprung and upon investigating found a large crow in it. Needless to say one less crow."—Deputy Game Protector J. R. Sell, Hollidaysburg.

---

"While feeding game in Blair Township I came upon quite a lot of rabbit fur on the snow. Not seeing any fox or dog tracks and no blood, I was at a loss to know what happened. Upon investigating I found the rabbit was attacked by several crows, as I could well see the foot-prints and wing scrapings in the snow. Following the course the rabbit took I saw it was attacked at four different places before it escaped in a hollow log minus a lot of fur."—Deputy Game Protector J. R. Sell, Hollidaysburg.

---

"I've had several reports of deer dying. The snow is so deep that only the largest deer can travel in it. The others have to shove it with their chests and drag in the middle. One party found a small deer down and very weak. They carried it here and I fed it for three days but it died. Some of the turkeys are dying too.

"We had a very nice turnout for the deer feeding caravan last Sunday—about sixty local men and four from Pittsburgh. They cut a lot of feed and it should help greatly. After the cutting operations, the club furnished coffee and doughnuts. The leader of each squad gave a report of his work and the game seen. Supervisor Sherman was there and gave a fine talk. It was a very nice outing for the men and a lot of good work was accomplished."—Game Protector Clyde W. Decker, Clearfield, January 1945.

## News From Other States

*Maine*

Warden Supervisor Roy Gray and Warden Erland Winter of Franklin County, Maine, tracked down and killed 22 bobcats in an astounding six-week winter blitzkrieg, according to the Maine Development Commission. The men often traveled 16 miles on snowshoes tracking a single animal. They were assisted by two redbone hounds named Ezekiel and Gabriel.

---

"Mr. Isaac H. Tanner, 712 South 4th Street, Youngwood, Pennsylvania, informed the Commission that he fed 75 ringneck pheasants and about 20 rabbits for the past seven weeks. To support his claim he forwarded receipts in the sum of $7.05, covering grain purchased. Mr. Tanner says the rabbits have destroyed about $50 worth of his finest fruit trees, roses and spirea, and that he does not do any hunting. Hats off to a real sportsman.

---

The only time the groundhog holds the interest of most people is on the approach of Groundhog Day, February 2. This rodent has many interesting traits. The hole he digs for his four months' winter nap slants down for about three feet, then cuts straight across and then upward, ending upon a ledge, which serves as a protection from the waters that drain into the hole. Upon this ledge the 'Chuck digs a large hole. Then the wild instinct of the groundhog asserts itself. Out into the field he goes and with his front paws he rakes up the brown grasses and tucks them into his mouth and carries them back to his home, making many trips to fill the hole on the ledge. Often he carries too large a mouthful and cannot enter the hole frontward, so he turns around and backs in.

---

## The Mosquito—The Big Shot

*By* C. R. HOBSON

The snow is on the mountain,
The snow is on the sea,
Who knows how soon the sunshine
Will make her land on me?

Her voice is low and humble,
She has a quiet, gentle sting,
My soul is filled rapture
As she journeys past me, a King.

But, alas, when the lights are low
She dares for her right to sing,
She does not quit, she likes to *go!*
She's a *big shot,* the little thing.

# PENNSYLVANIA Game News

May 1945

Ten Cents

P38 34
1.6
2 v

# PENNSYLVANIA GAME NEWS

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION, HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

EDWARD MARTIN, GOVERNOR

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

ROSS L. LEFFLER, *President* .....Pittsburgh
ROBERT LAMBERTON, *Vice-President* .....Franklin
COL. NICHOLAS BIDDLE .....Bethayres
G. I. PHILLIPS .....Alexandria
HAROLD MOLTZ .....Williamsport
DR. H. E. KILGUS .....Brockway
JOHN C. HERMAN .....Dauphin
DR. CARL B. ROSENKRANS .....East Stroudsburg

Administrative Office

SETH GORDON .....*Executive Director*
R. A. MCCACHRAN .....*Assistant Director*

DIVISION OF LANDS

W. Gard. Conklin .....*Chief*

DIVISION OF ACCOUNTING & BUDGET

N. E. Slaybaugh .....*Comptroller*

DIVISION OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

Leo A. Luttringer, Jr. .....*Chief*
*Editor,* PENNSYLVANIA GAME NEWS

TRAINING

W. M. Cramer .....*Supt. Training School*

Bureau of Field Operations

DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

W. C. Shaffer .....*Chief*

DIVISION OF LAND MANAGEMENT

James N. Morton .....*Chief*

DIVISION OF PROPAGATION & RESEARCH

Allan Studholme .....*Acting Chief*

FIELD DIVISION SUPERVISORS

DIVISION "A"—M. J. Golden, 602 Penn Ave., West Reading, Pa.
Berks, Bucks, Chester, Dauphin, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, York.

DIVISION "B"—Jay C. Gilford, Wyoming Ave. and Welles St., Forty Fort, Pa.
Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming.

DIVISION "C"—Thomas F. Bell, 352 E. 3rd St., Williamsport, Pa.
Bradford, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga, Union.

DIVISION "D"—William J. Davis, 327 Penn St., Huntingdon, Pa.
Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry.

DIVISION "E"—M. E. Sherman, 1 E. Du Bois Ave., Du Bois, Pa.
Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, Potter.

DIVISION "F"—Hayes T. Englert, 14 W. 1st St., 2d Floor, S. S. Oil City, Pa.
Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, Warren.

DIVISION "G"—Rollin Heffelfinger, 405 Main Street, 2d Floor, McClellan Bldg., Irwin, Pa.
Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, Westmoreland.

## HOW TO SUBSCRIBE

RATES—$0.50 per year to residents of Pennsylvania, regardless of address. $1.00 per year for Non-Residents of Pennsylvania. (Out-of-State, District of Columbia, Canadian or Foreign.) Club rates are available to organizations presenting 10 or more subscriptions in a single order. Remittances by check or money order to be made payable to the Department of Revenue. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. CASH FORWARDED AT SENDER'S RISK. STAMPS NOT ACCEPTED. Your local Game Protector, County Treasurer or other Hunting License Issuing Agent will take your subscription; or you may forward it direct to the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.

Please report all changes of address promptly, sending both your old and new addresses.

Please address *all* communications to the Editorial Office.

Publication office, Cameron and Kelker Sts., Harrisburg, Pa.

Executive and editorial office, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.

Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, under Act of March 3, 1879.

Permission to reprint will be granted provided proper credit is given.

Mailed in conformity with P.O.D. Order No. 19687.

Vol. XVI No. 2

# EDITORIAL

May, 1945

## IN THIS ISSUE

★

**Review of the 24-Year State Game Land Purchase Program**
By W. Gard. Conklin

★

**Fur-Bearing Dynamite—The Fisher**
By Jacob Bates Abbott

★

**"Dear Sirs"**
By Gary Lee

★

**A Day to Remember**
By Arthur H. Henze

★

**Grand National Grouse Championship**
By Herbert H. Cahoon

★

**Double or Nothing**
By C. M. Campbell

★

**Birds Were the First Messengers**
By Dr. Harold B. Wood

★

**Well—What's Wrong? Safety First—And Always**
An Essay Contest

★

**Cover—Mink and Woodcock**
By Jacob Bates Abbott

★

## FIFTY YEARS OF WILDLIFE ADMINISTRATION

The wildlife restoration movement in Pennsylvania was inaugurated by an Act of the General Assembly approved on June 25, 1895. The first Commission was appointed on November 17, 1896, and in November 1946 the Pennsylvania Game Commission will have completed a half century of public service to the citizens of the Commonwealth.

The credit for initiating this movement, and for directing it over the years, belongs to a few far-sighted conservationists who were endowed with an enthusiasm born of the highest sort of altruism and the most intense devotion to a cause.

One of the most indefatigable of these men, Hon. John M. Phillips of Pittsburgh, is still active at the ripe old age of 84; he is no less ardent and enthusiastic now than he was when he began fighting for a Game Commission over 50 years ago. To him and his associates, to Dr. Joseph Kalbfus, the first secretary of the Commission, and to every member who served then and since, always on their own time and at their own expense, the Commission and the sportsmen of today owe the department's enviable reputation.

The over $1,500,000 in revenue which the Commission receives today is a far cry from the annual sum of $800 originally appropriated for wildlife administration.

When the Commission made its first purchases of 45,000 acres of land in 1920, it did not even dream that 25 years later it would own for the use of the sportsmen nearly 800,000 acres, with almost 300,000 acres more under lease to manage for wildlife and hunting purposes.

In the beginning there were only a few Game Protectors who patrolled the entire Commonwealth, mostly on horseback. Now the Commission has 150 trained men to protect and manage wildlife.

At the turn of the century only a few sportsmen's associations were in existence, yet we owe a great deal of credit to the activities of those early-day groups who fought so hard with so little to gain the advantages we now enjoy. Today over 800 organized sportsmen's associations are helping to carry on the work of conservation.

In the early days little thought was given to artificial propagation or research. The Commission now owns and operates four State Game Farms, where game birds are raised for distribution throughout the Commonwealth, and it contemplates an extensive research program after the war to obtain essential information for its guidance in developing future programs.

The early conservationists were untrained, untaught. They had to learn by trial and error. Yet despite trials and tribulations, set-backs, discouragements, the program of wildlife restoration and management has gone steadily forward.

In the years to come it shall continue to go forward. And there will be more rapid progress and fewer mistakes if the children in the public schools are taught the lessons we should have been taught 25 or more years ago.

The first 50 years will soon be finished. In the light of present-day knowledge we are pleased, but not entirely satisfied, with the results. What we will have to show for the next half century depends largely upon the youths who are still in school. It is our job now to see that they are taught the principles of conservation and trained to carry on and further develop the program that the tireless energy of a few determined men has so nobly begun.

Photo by John B. Cliff

Sleek, fat and contented, this year-old took things easy during the winter and enjoyed handouts daily from Nazi war prisoners at the Red Bridge camp in the Allegheny National Forest.

# REVIEW OF THE 25 YEAR STATE GAME LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM AND OTHER ASSOCIATED GAME MANAGEMENT AREAS

By W. GARD. CONKLIN

*(Continued from Last Month)*

*Editor's Note: Last month, in the first half of this article, Mr. Conklin explained the early conservationists' realization of the need of State Game Lands for refuges and public hunting grounds. He told us how lands were leased for these purposes and later, when more money was available, lands were purchased. He continues this month with the further progress and development of the Game Commission's land purchase program.*

*The 75c Fund Comes Into Existence*

ALTHOUGH sportsmen realized that the land buying program could not be expanded unless more money was made available, they were not satisfied. They wanted more lands purchased and given wider distribution through all sections of the State and in 1926 they proposed an increase to the hunting license fee to provide additional funds for this purpose. This proposal received the support of the Commission and Legislature which resulted in the Act of May 5, 1927, increasing the Resident Hunting License from $1.25 to $2.00. The additional $.75 was earmarked "exclusively for the creation, acquisition by purchase, lease, or otherwise and the maintenance of public hunting grounds and game refuges . . ."

The adoption of the Act was another big step in the conservation and use of Pennsylvania's wildlife and timber resources. The 75c fund provided for by the Act, which is a special fund within the Game Fund, amounted to $376,216.50 during the first year, and $328,295.25 the second year. From the start of the fund in 1927, no other portion of the Game Fund was allocated for the purchase or leasing of land, nor for the management of the Commission's holdings which were rapidly increasing in number and acreage. The land purchase program was greatly expanded and, of course, management activities for the system of refuges and other managerial units were enlarged.

By May 31, 1936, the Commission had purchased 100 unit blocks of State Game Lands totalling 507,406 acres, distributed through 52 of the 67 counties of the State. Two of the sportsmen's wishes had been accomplished—more game lands and wider distribution. The cost of the 507,406 acres had mounted to $1,821,368.92, an average of $3.59 per acre; and several hundred thousands of dollars additional had been expended for surveys and title work. A very conservative estimate of the value of this land, made at the time, was $2,291,847.00. The value of buildings was placed at $175,225.00 additional.

Refuges had been set up on most of the unit blocks of game lands. Refuges on State Forests and other public land had increased to 48 units totalling 54,125 acres. Auxiliary Refuge Projects, private land for which the hunting rights only were leased, numbered 63 and totalled 64,149 acres. Four game farms, totalling 2,134 acres, had been acquired and although their management was not a function of the then Bureau of Refuges and Lands, work involved in their purchase was handled by that bureau.

As of May 31, 1936, an aggregate of 215 managerial units, totalling 627,814 acres, were either owned or under nominal control of the Commission.

*Management of Refuges and Lands During the Early Years*

The management of the new refuges and public hunting grounds presented problems which required changes in plans and procedures. New problems must be faced, and the present fateful war will create some which may be more troublesome than any in recent years. One that should not be underestimated is the expected increase in hunting pressure after the war. If World War I is any criterion, an increase of 30% or more in the number of licensed hunters after this war can be expected.

During the early period of the refuge system, management practices were quite different than those of subsequent years. With the establishment of the first primary refuge in 1905, the policy of assigning a regularly employed Refuge Keeper to protect and manage each refuge on State Forest, each of the leased projects, and for each unit block of State Game Lands was adopted. This policy continued until about the year 1930.

The principal work of Refuge Keepers was the cutting open of boundaries around refuges, stringing a single strand of No. 9 smooth galvanized wire, and posting signs warning sportsmen against hunting within the enclosed area. Each refuge was regularly and almost constantly patrolled, and mowed annually. Protection against forest fires and violations of game, fish and forest laws were and still are important duties. Even during those early years, efforts were made to feed game, particularly deer and wild turkeys. As State Game Lands were acquired, their boundaries were cut open, posted and maintained in that condition.

Each keeper was originally provided living quarters near his refuge or within the block of State Game Lands assigned to his care. The dwelling houses first provided were poorly constructed. In some instances they were mere shacks.

It soon became apparent that if capable men and their families were to be kept in remote forest areas where refuges were then

*(Continued on page 26)*

One of the first gates erected across a road leading directly into a Primary State Game Refuge, State Game Lands No. 37, Tioga County.

# FUR-BEARING DYNAMITE-- THE FISHER

## By Jacob Bates Abbott

*Illustrations by the Author*

PEKAN, Black Cat or Pennant's Marten, whatever you call him, the Fisher is boss of the forest in which he lives. If we except his bigger cousin, the wolverine (now extinct on much of his range), Pekan packs more dynamite, malicious mischief, bad temper and pure nerve in his richly furred, three-foot body than anything on four legs that prowls the corridors of the northwoods. Persistently tireless, he will run down snow shoe hares and foxes and has been known to chase and kill pine martens in their own element; cunningly audacious, a porcupine is nothing more to him than a tasty snack; absolutely fearless, he has authentically been known to tackle a Canada lynx, twice his weight, and come out on top. Look up all the synonyms for ferocious, implacable, audacious; think of equivelent terms for buccaneer and freebooter and you will have a few hints on a fisher's character. As an indomitable fighting machine he is rivalled only by the wolverine of the northern wastes and the honey ratel of South Africa.

The second largest member of the weasel family in North America (the wolverine holds first place), a big male fisher will go to 18 pounds—(B. R. Ross, Slave River district). Measurements of a full-grown male: 30 inches, nose to root of tail; tail 12 to 16 inches. He's a heavily built beast, slung low to the ground. Keen whitish claws, curved like sickles, protrude from his broad feet, which are furred to the sole. His ears are low and rounded, very broad at the base, and he sports some stout black whiskers on his muzzle and over each eye. He is darker below than above, his high forehead above the black nose is a grizzled light brown, and a mantle of this color covers his neck and shoulders, deepening to sepia on his lower back and hindquarters, becoming black on his belly, feet and tail. Sir John Richardson's * description of a fisher's expression is a classic:

"The physiognomy of a fisher when threatened resembles that of an enraged dog, though the apparent obliquity of its eyes give it a sinister look. The head has a strong, roundish, compact appearance, and contracts suddenly to form the nose, which ends rather acutely. Ears low and semicircular, they are far apart so as to leave a broad, rounded forehead. The eyes, situated where the head curves in to form the nose, appear more oblique than they really are."

The name, fisher, is entirely inappropriate, for Pennant's marten dislikes water almost as much as a cat does. De Kay says that the name may have come from the fact that fishers, then (1840) common near Lake Oneida. N. Y., commonly took the dead fish that were to be used to bait traps and which were left soaking overnight in tubs.

Fishers range over territory just below the highest dry woods that make up the pine martens' favorite habitat. They have been known to follow trout streams and to feed on frogs but do not, from choice, follow their smaller relatives, the minks, into the water.

While most animals, including the grizzly bear, let the porcupine strictly alone, the fisher welcomes this spear-studded rodent as a choice feature of his menu. When attacking a porcupine in winter the fisher uses masterly tactics. Porky, so long immune to attack by predators, curls up in a defensive position on the snow, his tender nose buried under his chin and forepaws, a little bored with his first (and last) experience with pekan. The fisher meanwhile, circling the porcupine with diverting feints, suddenly disappears under the snow. Smugly, perhaps, porky yawns to himself, "Ah-h- oh, another bluffer has scrammed." This is his last bit of meditation on this earth, for knife-like teeth and keen, curved claws have ripped through his soft, unprotected underparts. The fisher tunneled beneath him and another tree-killer has made the Big Change. A second method of dealing with this spiked tank requires patient waiting on pekan's part, just beyond the range of the armed tail. As porky, tired of waiting, lifts his head to see if his antagonist is still there, the fisher, with a lightning lunge, grabs the rodent's snout in his teeth. Pulling backward, he twists the porcupine's neck until, with a mighty heave, he flips him over on his back, thus exposing his vulnerable belly. After which repeat sequence as above. Fishers do not always come out of these encounters unscathed, particularly when there is no snow to camouflage their maneuvers. Specimens have been trapped that were liberally perforated with quills, but the barbed spears do not seem to be so fatally effective to pekan as they are to dogs, foxes and other attackers of the bristling fortress.

A fisher will eat about anything and does not hesitate to attack any prospective meal. I will qualify this statement by excepting from the black cat's diet bears, black and grizzly, adult deer, elk and moose on the hoof. A report from the upper Kern River in California of two fishers killed by mountain lions constitutes the only known record for that state of a fisher being killed by another wild animal.

The female brings forth a litter of two to four young in May or early June (California), denning in a tree cavity, 30 or 40 feet above ground, or in a fallen hollow log deep in the forest. The young are much lighter in color than their parents, especially on the head and forebody. W. H. Parkinson saw three young fishers, the size of small mink, in the Fresno Sierras (Calif.) late in June 1912.

Apparently never abundant, fishers ranged the northern forests of North America from New Brunswick, Maine, West Virginia (in the Alleghenies) to the lower Mackenzie and British Columbia, occurring in the Rockies in the Yellowstone region and in the west coast Sierras as far south as Yosemite. Trapping and logging (for man is their only enemy) have extirpated them from most of their range east of the Rockies, with one notable exception, to be discussed a little later. I have at hand, however, reports (1944) from Maine and New Hampshire which definitely indicate that fishers are once more roaming New England's wooded mountains. Maine: ". . . there is a fairly good population of these animals (fisher) in the more mountainous part of the State. They are seen or rather their tracks are seen frequently in Franklin, Somerset, Piscataquis and Aroostook counties." New Hampshire: ". . . they are becoming fairly

* Sir John Richardson, 1787-1865. Famous naturalist and explorer of northwestern Canada.

common in certain sections starting from northern New Hampshire down through the White Mountains. Last year two were trapped in Pittsburg. Our conservation officers report that fisher signs are really becoming numerous in many sections . . ."

Joseph S. Dixon (1937) estimates one fisher to each 100 square miles of suitable range in California—probably 300 in the State. 102 were trapped in 1920; 34 in 1924.

During the winter of 1919-20 twelve fishers were trapped by rangers in Yosemite. They have been protected since 1925.

Vernon Bailey (1936) states that 9 fishers were reported to the Oregon State Game Commission by trappers for the season 1913-14, at which time their skins were quoted at $25.00 each. In 1920-25 fisher pelts rose to $100-$150. A prime skin would bring fully that today.

Estimates (1938) of fisher inhabitants, by states, in national forests are as follows: Minnesota, 250; Wisconsin, 3; Idaho, 50; Washington, 215; Oregon, 90; California, 115. Of the national parks, Kings Canyon reports them "rare"; Sequoia, "uncommon"; and Yosemite estimates 75 within its borders.

F. H. H. Williamson of the Canadian Department of Mines and Resources, says (1939): "The fisher, because of its more southern distribution, is in the most precarious position of the three (marten, fisher and wolverine), although in eastern Canada it seems to hold up better than marten . . ."

Canada contains the bulk of the present fisher population and the annual take, as reported by Hudson's Bay Company (1944) ranged from 10,176 in 1919-20 to 3,408 in 1941-42. The latter figure is over 1,000 more than that of 1940-41, but, since 1929, the annual totals have averaged only a scant 3,000.

But where in the United States do you think trappers take the most fishers? In the high Sierras, in the Cascades of Washington, among Colorado's snow-covered Rockies or in the Grand Tetons of Yellowstone? Guess again. More fishers are trapped annually in our most heavily populated State than in all the rest of the country combined. Amazing as it seems, New York's Adirondacks yeild more fisher pelts every year than the total annual take of all the other States. Following is New York's record, which was carefully checked over for me by Clayton B. Seagears of the New York State Conservation Department. He says, ". . . We have no reason to believe that the figures are high as far as the fisher is concerned. In fact, we can assume that even more were taken than were reported . . . Today. fisher tracks are not at all rare through virtually the entire wilderness area of the Adirondack Forest Preserve . . . I'll grant you that the reported take DOES seem tremendous. However, I've talked to many trappers in the Adirondacks during the past few years and the stories concerning the abundance of the black cat are, believe me, eye openers . . ."

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1918 | 396 | 1928 | 66 |
| 1919 | 353 | 1929 | 110 |
| 1920 | 132 | 1930 | 58 |
| 1921 | 186 | 1931 | 181 |
| 1922 | 573 | 1932 | 105 |
| 1923 | 112 | 1933 | 31 |
| 1924 | 144 | 1934 | 308 |
| 1925 | 61 | 1935 | 275 |

1926-27 No Record

From 1936 closed seasons have been established on otter, marten and fisher.

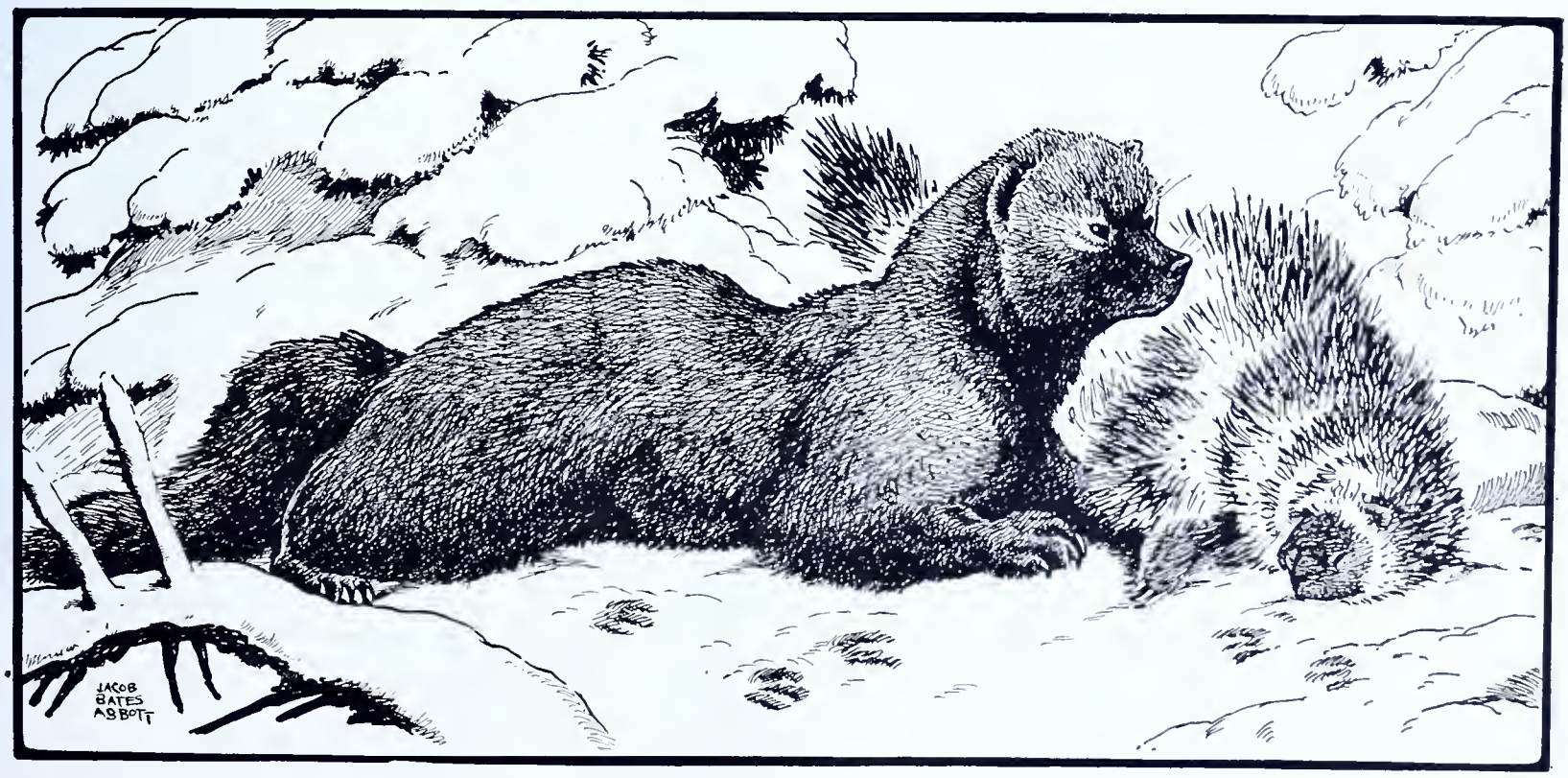
What an extraordinary thing that, notwithstanding the vast wilderness of forest and mountains, extending from Maine to Washington, one of our rarest furbearers is taken in the greatest numbers within a couple of hundred miles of our largest metropolitan area.

Not much has been accurately written on *martes pennanti*, chiefly, of course, because very little is really known about his life and habits in the wild—known, at least, to those who will write about it. Perhaps no one knows more about live fishers today than Mr. W. O. Douglas of the Hudson's Bay Company's experimental fur ranch at Bird's Hill, Manitoba. Mr. Douglas, a former sergeant of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, has been remarkably successful in raising fishers behind wire and writes about them with intelligent enthusiasm. He says that careful handling makes them interesting captives, but warns, "An angry fisher is not to be fooled with."

The late Dr. Glover Allen's account of fishers in his "Extinct and Vanishing Mammals of the Western Hemisphere" is one of the best. E. W. Nelson's description in National Geographic's "Wild Animals of North America" is very readable, as are all his writings. He had the fortunate ability of combining accurate observation with pleasantly legible recollections. Seton's "Lives of American Game Animals" contains good data on this big weasel. Among writer-naturalists who describe wildlife accurately in fiction, Charles G. D. Roberts and Samuel Scoville, Jr. have written several fascinating stories of fishers. "Black Cat" and "The Killer" are two of Scoville's best.

As in literature, fishers are meagerly represented pictorially and several of the artists who have tried it have come up with something that looked like a cross between a badly stuffed mink and a scrawny tom cat. They missed entirely the high,rounded skull, extremely concave face, low, broad ears, the short, heavy-set legs and chunky forequarters, not to mention the fully-furred tail. The late Charles Livingston Bull, America's greatest wildlife illustrator, was a master at catching the fisher's characteristics and some of his drawings are the best pictorial records of pekan in existence. Two of Bull's outstanding fisher drawings are: a pen and ink illustration in a book called "Fur Facts" by Albert Ahern and one in color for a large poster of American game animals published by Winchester Arms in the early 1920's. Most of the fisher photographs (and they

*(Continued on page 22)*



"He attempted flight but was thrown heavily to the pavement while the other of the strangers placed him in handcuffs."

# "DEAR SIRS"

**By GARY LEE**

***Continued from last Month***

Snow Bound, Pa.
February 5, 1943.

My Dear Sirs & Gentlemen:

It pleases me greatly to tell you that I caught a fox today. This is a red letter day for it was a red fox. He was a beauty. I carried him right through town so as people could see it and especially Mr. Lee. He looked at me and said well its about time. Well Im started so watch the fur fly.

Yours truly,
LLEWELLYN PUNKMIER.

Snow Bank, Maine,
February 9, 1943.

Mr. Llewellyn Punkmier
Snow Bound, Pa.
Dear Mr. Punkmier:

Congratulations! We were sure you would learn sooner or later the advantages of using our better products. We never for a moment lost confidence in either you or our Red Raider Scent. Keep up the good work!

Very truly yours,
FOX PAW SCENT & EQUIPMENT COMPANY.

Snow Bound, Pa.
February 6, 1943.

The Fox Paw Scent & Equipment Co.
Snow Bank, Maine
My Dear Sirs:

Who said I used Red Raider to catch a fox. I got 2 more since and Aunt Mary said Lew your beginning to get smart and I guess I am.

Very truly yours,
LLEWELLYN PUNKMIER.

Snow Bound, Pa.
October 1, 1943.

The Fox Paw Scent & Equipment Co.
Snow Bank, Maine
My Dear Sirs:

This here check pays for 4 more drying boards. I have only 6 on hand so send them soon.

Very truly yours,
LLEWELLYN PUNKMIER.

Snow Bank, Maine,
October 5, 1943.

Mr. Llewellyn Punkmier
Snow Bound, Pa.
Dear Mr. Punkmier:

Thank you for your valued order of October 1. The boards have gone forward today.

Under separate cover we are mailing a copy of our new, big catalogue showing everything for the trapper.

We call your attention to the offer No. 23, page 54, which includes, Fun With Foxes, by Hyde & Hare, and four bottles of either our famous Red Raider or Gray Ghost Scents.

The enclosed blank completed and returned to this office entitles you to participate in our annual $500 prize trappers' contest. We feel sure you have a good chance to win one of our prizes. Please complete this blank promptly and preclude the possibility of forgetting to do it.

With best wishes for a successful season, we are,

Very truly yours,
FOX PAW SCENT & EQUIPMENT COMPANY.

Snow Bound, Pa.
October 10, 1943.

The Fox Paw Scent & Equipment Co.
Snow Bank, Maine
My Dear Sirs:

I don't want no fun with foxes no Red Raider no Gray Ghost no skunks no oposums no crows and no dogs. I read your book fooling four feet and it aint no good either. I have plenty trouble fooling one foot not talkin about the other three. Ever since I started this fox trapping business Im in trouble. Aunt Mary says about the whole town is mad at me and all the coon hunters to. But she says Im learning fast and mebbe I am.

Yours truly,
LLEWELLYN PUNKMIER.

Snow Bank, Maine,
November 30, 1943.

Mr. Llewellyn Punkmier
Snow Bound, Pa.
Dear Mr. Punkmier:

Our attention has been directed to the excellent catch of foxes you have thus far made during the current trapping season. We learned of this, inadvertently, through Mr. E. Robert Lee, Esq., President of the Snow Bound Sportsmen's Club. While we have had no report directly from you we are most anxiously awaiting word from you since our annual trapping contest closes December 31, 1943.

We can contribute your success only to the intelligent use of our Red Raider and Gray Ghost Scents. In the interest of helping other trappers and, incidentally, of reducing your heavy fox population, we would be very happy to have a testimonial from you along with a picture of you posed with some fox pelts. We would be pleased to pay for your inconvenience.

With best wishes for a successful season, we are,

Very truly yours,
FOX PAW SCENT & EQUIPMENT COMPANY.

Snow Bound, Pa.
December 14, 1943.

The Fox Paw Scent & Equipment Co.
Snow Bank, Maine
My Dear Sirs:

Bet it hurt Mr. Lee to say I was doing pretty good with my fox trapping. I aint aloud in his house yet to which Mrs. Lee says amen. So Virginia and me cant get together except at the drug store etc. Mr. Lee says Lew you aint bad to look at and you have a nice personalaty but youre head is absolutely positively and definitely empty. He says. I dont have no good picture which was took lately but mebbe this will do. The sportsmen club meets tomorrow night to give

our prizes and I think I have a good chance at first prize. I cant write you no testimonial about Red Raider and Gray Ghost for I cant catch no foxes with them. I mix my own.

Yours truly,
LLEWELLYN PUNKMIER.

Snow Bank, Maine,
December 18, 1943.

Mr. Llewellyn Punkmier
Snow Bound, Pa.
Dear Mr. Punkmier:

Thank you for the photograph which has just reached us. We deeply appreciate your interest in sending this photograph of yourself and the lady we assume to be Virginia.

While this picture is of great interest it is not exactly the picture we had hoped to use for publicity purposes. We were really desirous of having a trappers picture showing you in trappers dress with some fox pelts slung over your shoulder or hung upon a wire. The photo we received, of course, shows you wearing a derby hat which would hardly be useful for advertising purposes.

Please accept our check for $5.00 covering the cost of this picture. At the same time, we remind you to have another picture made showing a part of your catch of foxes along with a small part of your trapping equipment. Your equipment, we believe, is entirely built around Fox Paw Company's stock.

We call your attention to the fact that the trappers prize contest closes very soon. We are anxiously awaiting the report of your catch.

Very truly yours,
FOX PAW SCENT & EQUIPMENT COMPANY.
Snow Bound, Pa.

December 28, 1943.

The Fox Paw Scent & Equipment Co.
Snow Bank, Maine
My Dear Sirs:

I took up my traps day before yesterday and will call it quits for this year. I filled out the blank you sent me last fall and you will see I caught 93 foxes. Old 93 they call me now. I won first prize from the club as you will see by the paper clipping I cut out and pasted to the back of this letter. As you will see I am getting smarter and Aunt Mary says so to. My prize was a rist watch with a fox face engraved on it. Virginia says she is glad for me but Mr. Lee only said I guess you earned it and its about time. Mrs. Neff said that for all the cats I killed for her and the neibors I might give them a fur each. So I did. They aint so mad now.

Very truly yours,
LLEWELLYN PUNKMIER.

Snow Bank, Maine,
January 9, 1944.

Mr. Llewellyn Punkmier
Snow Bound, Pa.
Dear Mr. Punkmier:

This will advise you that you stood fifth in the trappers contest and we are pleased to enclose our check for $50.00. As an added special prize we are mailing, under separate cover, three bottles each of our Red Raider and Gray Ghost Fox Scents. We know your fine success has been due largely to the use of our scents.

Upon receipt of your 'trappers' photograph we shall be pleased to see that it is featured in our "Look Here" magazine printed once yearly in the interest of trappers everywhere.

Congratulations! It is good to learn that you have won first prize in the Club Contest. You will do us a great favor by mentioning to your trapping friends the real merit of our scents and equipment.

With best wishes, we are,
Very truly yours,
FOX PAW SCENT & EQUIPMENT COMPANY.

Snow Bound, Pa.
November 15, 1944.

The Fox Paw Scent & Equipment Co.
Snow Bank, Maine
My Dear Sirs:

I must have some more drying boards as business is better than ever. Im going to get a whale of a lot morn last year. Guess Tom Wells and some others think Im using Red Raider and Gray Ghost. The other day I met him in the woods and he says say Lew how in the hell do you use that stuff meaning Red Raider and I says well Tom foxes dont like the same feed and the same smell all the time and some do and some dont which is what he said to me one time when I asked him. He said if I dont get some pretty damn soon Ill go back to my old home mix. I mix my own and I got the secret from my uncle Claud Hopper who lived for a long time with some indians. He really nows foxes and Im doin rite well by them to. My check is for 6 more boards get them off quick.

Very truly yours,
LLEWELLYN PUNKMIER.

Snow Bank, Maine,
November 20, 1944.

Mr. Llewellyn Punkmier
Snow Bound, Pa.
Dear Mr. Punkmier:

For quite some time we have been hearing of your great success in trapping both red and gray foxes. We have always felt that our own scents were unsurpassed but it does not follow that someone might not produce even a better one.

Would you be interested in selling to us the secret mix you tell us was given to you by Mr. Hopper? If so, we would be glad to entertain some thought about the matter and advise you of our decision promptly.

The drying boards have gone forward to you this morning.

Very truly yours,
FOX PAW SCENT & EQUIPMENT COMPANY.

*(Continued on page 23)*

I GUESS nearly every sportsman remembers that first deer he bagged on that gone but not forgotten day of his younger years.

My first, and perhaps my most enjoyable big game hunt, came at the age of 20, and inflicted upon me a fever that can only be cured by an annual excursion to the timber and laurel covered mountains of Pennsylvania.

Don't snicker when I say my first kill was a doe, because I've shot quite a few bucks since that eventful day. But not one of my antlered trophies gave me that blood pumping—woozy—makes you want to dance feeling that a city boy gets at his first big game kill.

It was one of those planned trips; you know, the kind one talks about the spring and summer before, and starts to get ready for when the first twinges of frost herald the small game season.

I remember that sweet little Winchester, 32 special, I borrowed from a good friend of mine and incidentally returned five years later. Hardly an evening went by that I didn't wheel around in my tracks, between the twin beds, and bear the sights down on an imaginary deer target. My favorite draw was at the desk lamp where I could see my sights line up in the bulb's glow.

I was indeed fortunate to have two old dyed-in-the-wool deer hunters help me plan my first trip. Gene and Jack missed the regular buck season of 1939, so when the special three day doe season came up for certain northern counties, we chose to hunt the Cooks Forest region.

The night of December 13 was one of those sleeting, drizzling nightmares for motorists. Gene, Jack and I left Pittsburgh about three o'clock in the morning, and started up route 28 to Brookville about eighty miles northeast of Pittsburgh.

That freezing rain made those Pennsylvania roads as slick as glass and any speed beyond 25 M.P.H. was like playing ball with the "Grim Reaper." I stopped about twenty-five miles north of Pittsburgh and slapped on one chain to get a little traction. We figured the links wouldn't last long on solid ice, so using one chain at a time would get us twice as far on our route. The ice started to layer up on the blasted windshield. Neither wipers, defroster, or opening the engine hood a litte for heat, would stop it from forming.

I pulled up at a filling station, and upon advice of the proprietor, purchased five nice juicy Bermuda onions to rub on the icy windshield. Gene, Jack and I rubbed onions over that glass every five miles for fifty miles. Everything in that car reeked of choice bermudas and our "tears flowed like wine" amid cigar smoke. Fifty miles of "onion ice" convinced us and we tossed them out in the cold. I've never eaten an onion since that day and I doubt if Jack and Gene have either.

The remainder of our journey found me piloting our gas buggy by sticking my head out of the side window and steering through sleet lashed eyes.

As we neared Brookvile, the exodus of deer hunters to Cooks Forest was jammed up by a mass of tangled and sliding cars at a rather abrupt grade. Several foolhardy motorists were trying to make the grade without chains and really messed up the works. We stopped, threw on the other chain, and took a run for the hill. With all our horses clicking in unison we just barely slid over the top and from there on into Brookville without mishap.

Gene and Jack were rather low spirited because it was eight o'clock and we should have been in the woods by 7:30 at least. I felt great because the drizzle had stopped and the clouds were breaking up, with a pink indication of sunrise in the east.

There was a beautiful eight inch layer of snow in Cooks Forest and in the early light various shades of blue filtered through the great forest.

Passing Sigel we got sidetracked on the wrong road and wasted another half hour getting our whereabouts straightened out.

The hunters were out in full force. It was a swell sight to see their bright red hunting suits, and here and there a gang pulling out a deer with that laughing and joking that signifies success.

We headed back along a well packed gas well road and parked near a small cottage occupied by the watchman of the pipe line. After exchanging greetings with him and getting kidded a bit about our late start to the woods, we were all set.

Guns were inspected and Gene kept a watchful eye on my loading.

The sun broke out at nine o'clock and we started down the trail Indian fashion. It was a well tracked trail too, which in-

dicated that dozens of nimrods had beat us to the draw.

Nothing mattered to me because it sure was a glorious day for deer hunting with an eight inch layer of glistening snow plastered all over the pine and laurel covered mountainside.

Down the winding trail we hiked, occasionally passing a group of hunters huddled around their small wood fires. We would exchange the usual "any luck chum" greeting and continue down the sloping snow clad hills.

At about 9:45 we came to a low ravine that branched off in several directions. A camp fire with two hunters on watch sort of discouraged us from making several short drives through the thick laurel and pine.

The three of us elected to climb the mountain to our left and station ourselves at 100 yard intervals. We figured on bagging a deer as the hunters in the lowlands scared them from the bottoms.

Jack led the way up over a slope of loose shale rock. Slipping and grasping the short pine and bushes, Gene and I followed, pulled ourselves to the firm footing of a bench gashed in the hillside and caught our breath.

Perspiration ran freely on our faces even though the temperature hovered around 10 degrees fah. Our breath made clouds of vapor, but boy we felt physically perfect.

Up we went into drifts of snow over our knees, through scrub laurel and around large rocks. "Wham", out from a clump of laurel, nearly under my right foot, went a grouse. It startled me into a slight case of shakes and my heart gently rolled back down my throat to its appointed place. The rocks increased in size as our trio climbed, and upon nearing the top of the ridge took on the proportions of a two story house.

Gene took the first spot, a very nice view of a lower bench with a ravine sloping toward his laurel covered surroundings. He climbed upon a choice boulder and waved us on.

Jack and I struck off through the glistening untracked snow and worked out along the ridge. Occasionally a tree would snap with a resounding "crack" or a shot would reverberate in the distance as we glided noiselessly through the ghost like woods.

About 250 yards along the ridge I spied a huge rock with several smaller rocks forming sort of steps up to its flat top. I elected to go on watch here and Jack took off for a spot further on.

I carefully climbed up to the top of the towering rock and swept some of the snow away so I could sit or kneel on my rubber seat pad.

The rock commanded an excellent view of a large patch of laurel, a great portion of sloping timberland and a fair view through the second growth trees toward Gene and Jack's respective lookouts.

As I sat catching my breath and letting my eyes become accustomed to the winter fairyland, a weird, whining noise caused my over developed imagination to perk up. Yes, a huge bear must be giving me the unwelcome signal. As the whining continued on my jangled nerves I climbed down off the rock and investigated the base for a bruin.

After satisfying my curiosity and reassuring my courage I climbed back up on my stone perch and settled down to a close scrutiny of every part of visible forest. The whining noise stopped and the white ghost-like woods sparkled in the increasing rays of a winter sun.

All at once hell broke loose with a canonading of shots that brought me to my feet like a flash.

It was Jack's 35 Remington, I told myself; nothing short of a machine gun could pour lead that fast. Gun half raised, my eyes focused toward Jack's section of gray and green timber. The shots were still reverberating off the mountain side when a deer broke into view, streaking straight toward my rock. Legs outstretched, coming at full speed without a sound, it swallowed up the distance like a derby winner on the home stretch. No antlers, a legal deer, get set kid here's your big chance!

Squinting down the stubby barrel of my 32 Special I put the bead on the animal's shoulder and, at about 30 yards shooting distance, squeezed the trigger.

"Bang," down it went on its front legs, then up lunging forward through a drift without hardly losing its stride.

Just before passing under my perch I banged at the doe again, but apparently unscathed my intended victim burst out past the other side of the rock and kept going at full speed.

Time for one more shot, and with as much coolness as I could muster, I let go a hollow point at a 45 degree angle aiming carefully at the deer's back. Never faltering it plunged into the thick laurel and pine about 40 yards toward Gene's locality.

Alone again, shaking with the excitement and a little buck fever, I reconstructed the lightning action of the past few seconds. A feeling of utter disgust stole over me and the thought of bungling my first big chance left me the most unhappy person in the world. "Three shots, three misses, you big Pittsburgh wise guy, after all those practice draws at that lamp bulb that was only one hundredth as big as your last target." My mind was really active and all in direction of reprimanding my poor shooting.

"Well," I thought, "the hunt is over. Those shots would scare anything for a dozen miles around into burrowing under the snow.

"Might as well look at the tracks though."

Down off the rock I slid and tramped over to the spot where the snow was plowed up by the lunging knees of the deer. I figured I might as well do a little tracking in the hope one shot may have struck home. No Indian guide was needed to follow the perfect trail under the rock. Look! Well I'll be! Three flecks of crimson on the glistening snow, and several more a little further on the trail. "Wait a minute, what was that you were instructed to do? Give a wounded deer a chance to lie down and stiffen in the cold snow before you chase him all over creation."

That was hard to do but I stayed my ground, glancing at my wrist watch every ten seconds. Ten minutes was all I could stand and off I went toward the laurel.

Little spots of crimson flecked the tracks and continued into the snow covered laurel. Smelling victory in the wind I plunged into it, hot on my quarry's trail. What was that twenty or thirty yards ahead in that scrub pine? It was my doe, trying to get up, but too weak to stand. Sighting me, it lunged desperately to its feet and prepared to make tracks. I let go a shot to the neck that sent it down for keeps.

My cup of success was running over and joyously beyond words I yelled my fool head off for Jack and Gene. My shouts caromed off the mountainside and no doubt left every hunter within a dozen miles think I had been shot and was yelling for help.

The white mantled forest was silent as a tomb and my echoes mocked me into silence. The doe was fairly large and I clumsily flopped the steaming body into gutting position. A lone bullet just grazing the spinal column and plunging into the lung had brought her down.

Peeling off my hunting coat and several sweaters I proceeded to roll up my sleeves and unsheathed that never used hunting knife.

The job sure looked distasteful and it

*(Continued on page 31)*

**Raymond Heidlebaugh, Jr., R. D. No. 7, York, with a big one bagged last season.**

Hall's Black Rocket. Winner 1944 Grand National Grouse Dog Championship.

# GRAND NATIONAL GROUSE CHAMPIONSHIP

## By Herbert H. Cahoon

HALL'S Black Rocket, the flashing black meteor of grouse trials, whose name and color were a veritable symbol of the dark, dank, depressing days at Gladwin, Michigan, during the second running of the Grand National emerged the winner, and once again his indomitable will, extreme courage, seeming endless "bottom" and "choke-bore" nose, brought him home the front runner, in this, his greatest grouse trial triumph.

List ye, gentle reader, while I tell you that this black devil is really a bird dog. I don't mean a "mutt" bird dog who sneaks along at a snail's pace turning over leaves and stopping where a grouse lit day before yesterday; neither do I mean a "gun dog" bird dog who is afraid of getting lost, or a dog who loves his handler so much he just can't bear to get out of his sight. I mean a real fast, hard driving, stylish plunging field trial bird dog, with a choke-bore nose who can pick them off or from under the green bush while going at top speed. Don't ever sit at home by the fire and belittle this champion with old Moll or Zeke, unless you have run them with him and out-ranged, out-styled, out-gamed and out-birded this really great grouse dog.

Black Rocket has been consistently good all during 1944. We followed him at the Venango trials and the Pennsylvania Championship event in the Spring and then followed him at the Black Forest and Venango trials this fall. I had the pleasure of being one of the judges to crown him the second Grand National Champion, bringing a fitting finis to a great and glorious year of grouse dog endeavor for this great competitor and his able and gentlemanly handler, Gene Galloway of Grove City, Pa. Black Rocket is owned by A. Acton Hall of Piqua, Ohio, who has gamely backed this black meteor wherever Galloway thought he was ready to start.

We have to say in all truthfulness and fairness to our reading public that the first hour of his second series two-hour final was by all odds the worst heat we have seen. Black Rocket delivered, but his first series hour was a doozie, and his second hour of the two-hour finals was a lulu. Please remember also that he had perfect bird work in both heats and when we "pour it on" for his failure to run up to his own high standard, we hasten to interject that his first hour race in the two-hour finals was far from commonplace or of the ordinary gun dog variety.

Hall's Black Rocket is a heavily marked, black, white and tan setter with real deep rich tan jaw trim. If you are looking for a bench show "darling," pass Rocket up quickly, but if you are looking for a tough, rugged, workmanlike setter with the best of legs and feet, tremendous spring of ribs, short strong loin and a glorious nose, look this black boy over.

He is no accident, as the greatest grouse trial blood extant flows hotly through his veins and exemplifies itself in every one of his wide swinging, classy powerful actions. He was whelped June 25, 1940 and is the son of the celebrated winner and fabulously famous grouse sire, Sam L's Skyrocket. His dam is Gay Sandra, a great, fast stylish little cover fighting grouse trial winner in her own right, she representing the blood of the immortal Ch. Eugym Mohawk and his son Ch. Nugym, famous as a sire of winning setters. "Like begets like" was never better exemplified. When Harry Wilson of Franklin, Pa. bred his Ch. Mohawk II bitch Wilsons Betty Whitestone to Ch. Eugene M. and produced Ch. Eugym Mohawk he lighted a grouse trial lamp that has burned brightly for nearly thirty years. Ch. Mohawk II, the great Mommey and Ch. Lambertons Mack are potent factors in the reproducing powers of Sam L's Skyrocket.

Black Rocket was bred by H. A. Enterline of Greenville, Pa., who disposed of him to Mr. Hall. The dog is a protege of Gene Galloway and his training methods and we believe has been with Gene since puppyhood. That Gene knows how can be gleaned from the fact that he capped a five time placement record with his black crusader with this championship crown, and this, coming shortly after winning the National in Pennsylvania with Sky Bandit, makes him a money handler for sure.

The second event of this Grand National Championship was held over the famous Gladwin Refuge courses at Gladwin, Michigan. No one can "paint a lily" and so we will not try and describe this celebrated grouse terrain other than to say that in our humble opinion we doubt if a finer piece of ideal grouse country is in existence for the purpose of running Championship grouse dogs. It is simply perfect. These grounds were always noted for their adaptibility, but this year they were much, much better than heretofore.

The Game Commission of Michigan, headed by Commissioner F. J. Hoffmaster, met the Michigan members of the Grand National association more than half way and instructed Henry Ruhl, head of the Game Department, to go ahead and give the grouse boys results. The conservation department went to work with a bang and when they had finished, new roads and bridges had been put clear through and around the refuge, trails were cut through and numbered in sequence, all twenty-four of them. They are laid out for one-half hour heats. The trails are blazed in gay paints and the numerical markers are of durable plastic and average about ten to the course and they really looked friendly on the long rides through the trails. Of course, the start and end of each course is most plainly marked. The courses were brushed out enough for visibility and had the weather been propitious, we can imagine no more glorious way to spend a couple of days than to fol-

low class grouse dogs over this forest wonderland. The lakes, beaver dams, evergreens and "popple thickets" (dense stands of poplar trees) make a picturesque background for such an event.

We cannot say too much about the wonderful headquarters established by the Michigan men for this event. They were at Johnston's Rustic Village where each person had a new log cabin, finished in knotty pine, complete with tile bath and all the trimmings. These cabins are on beautiful Houghton Lake, four miles wide and sixteen miles long, the largest inland lake in Michigan. The dining hall and meeting room was an immense log cabin with a gigantic stone fireplace in which real logs crackled and sent out those friendly odors that only a log fireplace can do. How welcome this was after "riding the range" all day in that tough weather.

The least said about the weather the better; it was dark, damp, dismal and miserable with rain and frozen snow flurries at intervals, and all this, mind you, after the most pleasant fall even the oldest Michigander can remember. Flowers were still in bloom as we drove through the state of the Wolverine and the day before the trials, as we roamed the evergreen woods back of the cabins, it reminded one of a perfect October day at Pinehurst, than which there can be none more perfect. The next day "long undies" woolen mackinaws, duck hunting suits, rubber boots, "souwester hats" and all the rainy raiment one could beg or borrow, was in strict order. However it was ever thus at grouse trials.

We are not going to attempt to name all of those who attended this trial or contributed to its success. We would feel negligent indeed, however, if we failed to tell of the kindly, personable and friendly president of the National Grouse Championship Association, John Hadaway of Flint, Michigan, who proved his gameness and "condition" by following every heat. (John was succeeded by James Byrne of Damariscotta, Maine as President and the third annual Grand National will be run in New England in 1945). Mike Cavanaugh of Lansing, who handled all the local arrangements at Gladwin, the genial Irishman who is such a super salesman, even made us forget the weather, Hunter Gaines of Lansing, smooth, suave raconteur of the first water. Ralph Thomas of Detroit, whom we are unable to understand why Michigan hasn't sent to the United States Senate. Tall as a pine, handsome as a painting, with the common sense of a Lincoln and the oratory of a Daniel Webster, "Wake up Michigan before you are stumped by an expert" from Pennsylvania. Sam Light of Punxsutawney, Pa., whose successful powers of persuasion and winning ways in grouse trials are synonymous. W. Lee White of New York and Scotland, Connecticut, the organization master mind, who deserves no end of credit for the splendid service he has rendered grouse trials in New England and the Grand National event.

Fred C. Leggett celebrated grouse trial authority and writer, Fred Larrey Sanker and grouse trial judge, Jack Van Covering, noted sports writer and photographer of the *Detroit Free Press;* Arthur (Where Are We) Haight, demon marshal of Pennsylvania grouse trials; Lynn Evans, smooth, likeable and efficient devotee of grouse trials, and last but not least the rosy cheeked man whose wit and good humor helped immensely and who was largely instrumental in securing the snappy, time enduring, plastic, course numerals.

The judges were Dr. L. J. "Sam" Hyde of Lawrence, Massachusetts; Dr. C. F. "Ford" DeVries of Lansing, Michigan, and Herbert H. Cahoon, "Sage of Ben Avon," Pennsylvania. Dr. Hyde and Dr. DeVries were tireless in their efforts to see every move of every dog, and the writer helped out a little here and there wherever he could. We wonder sometimes at the courage and tenacity of some of our grouse trial judges to wit—Dr. Hyde had suffered a severe knee injury early in the gunning season and as he went to mount his horse at the start, she threw him, hurting his knee again. He walked the entire trial. What a boy. Dr. Ford DeVries is a giant of six feet four, nothing apparently but sinews. For him, it was "just a breeze." Gee I wish I weren't a fat old soft guy. The efforts of the judges were appreciated and their decision well received.

One of the very finest exhibitions of colored wildlife moving pictures that we have ever seen was displayed during the trials by Walter Hastings, the official photographer for the Michigan Conservation Commission. This was topped by a series of the greatest "movie" photographs ever taken of a cock bird of the ruffed grouse tribe "drumming."

Contrary to common conception or general ideas on the subject, the grouse does not beat his wings against his side only to get started into his symphony. When he is really at his best and going at top speed, the wings are straight up above his back and flashing with the speed of white light against each other. This will be hard for a lot of the "old timers" to swallow, but boys you better roll those "cuds" over and after spitting at the nearest "devil club," gulp hard and get it down, for "seein' is believin'," and it only goes to prove once more the contention that the camera is a wonderful instrument. We will amend "Whirring Wings" immediately and amplify the portion on "Drumming."

The bird situation at Gladwin was very gratifying as there were plenty of birds on which to run a couple of successful championships, some courses even producing as many as ten birds, and while we kept no accurate count of them we are sure over one hundred grouse were raised. Grouse being what they are however, and especially in this first stormy weather of a remarkably open fall, they were "touch and go" all the time and really lived up to their reputation as the greatest, wildest and most unpredictable game bird of America.

We are not going to dwell on the organization or aims of the Grand National Grouse Championship, as this has been covered several times. It's main purpose is to bring the winners together in one place, from all the other localized, so-called championship stakes, open all age stakes, and try and produce a real dog worthy of the title Grand Champion.

The location is supposed to rotate, the first trial being run at Jersey Shore, Pennsyl-

*(Continued on page 24)*

**Three Musketeers, "Herb" Cahoon, Dr. DeVries, and Fred Leggett, "Scribe."**

**The drawing. Right to left: Mike Seminatore, Dr. Harold Essig, Sally Flack, Ed Flack, John Hadaway, Herb Cahoon, Dr. DeVries, Dr. Hyde and Dewey Hutchinson.**

# DOUBLE OR NOTHING

## By C. M. Campbell

*Illustrations by Jack Bates Abbott*

JANUARY found me with an enforced vacation on my hands, due to a shortage of material at the shop. The map was covered by a six inch blanket of snow. The mercury dodged around between freezing and zero.

I was mulling over the situation, wondering what to do about it, when Jim barged in. It was at once apparent that he had something on his mind besides his hair. I never saw him more steamed up than he was this morning. Said he, "Wipe the gloom off your ugly mug and get your coat. We're off for a hike!" Being mostly Scotch, I hedged a bit, asking where the fire was and where he got the license to shove me around. Says Jim—"One of old Dick's prize pullets got out of the coop yesterday. Last night she perched on the fence beside the henhouse. Right now she's in process of digestion in the belly of some fox or other and we're the boys elected to secure the scalp of the predator, likewise the pelt and the bounty."

"Where do we get the fox hound?" Says I, "Is it to be one of the prize winners from your famous kennels, or do you intend merely to serve a subpoena on this fox and hale him into court?" "That," says Jim, "is your funeral. You know where to get old Lobe and you can take Bett and the cutter to haul him over here." It meant a sixteen mile sleigh ride to go and fetch the dog, but Jim's enthusiasm was contagious and his proposition offered diversion from idleness.

We went over to the scene of the slaying, which was at the foot of the hill at the outskirts of the village. Much of the story was written in the snow. Evidently this fox was no novice at the game. The struggle had been brief and effective. Only a few extra foot prints were visible at the scene of the kill, plus a little spot of blood-stained snow and a few long, reddish hairs caught on a sliver of the fence.

A little back-tracking proved that the fox had come down along the creek, from the north. Perhaps a westerly breeze had borne the scent of fowl to him. His approach had been direct. The get away had been at a lope for more than a quarter mile. There he had dropped the bird, took a new hold and trotted over half a mile before he paused to feast.

The scene of the banquet was a mile or so to the north, under the hemlocks of Dewey Hollow. The trail away from here bore to the west, up the ridge. Jim and I knew all of this country. We had hunted small game here for the past three years with considerable success. We made very few plans on the way back to town. We had found fox hunting to be much a game of chance, not governed by fixed rule or regulation.

In the early afternoon I got under way to borrow the only fox hound we knew of. Bett, Jim's bay mare, took me up the hills at a snail's pace, but on the down grades, managed a trot that got me over to Hank's place in about two hours. The Mrs. was glad to let me have old Lobe. Says she, "Hank's away for six weeks yet, cuttin' logs way over nigh to East Hickory. That dog will be glad to hunt with you and I'm glad to be rid of him for a spell, after tryin' to fill him up all winter. He mopes around the barn all day, like he was ailin', but I guess he just misses Hank. I hope you keep him 'til Hank gets back."

Old Lobe was sure glad to see me. He frisked around like a pup until we got into

the sleigh. He refused to lie at my feet and sat up beside me all the way home. He tried to tell me something and nearly licked my left ear off in the process.

Next morning found the weather a bit soft, with a taint in the air that seemed to indicate the approach of the first thaw of the winter. Jim and I had picked stations about a mile apart. Jim headed for a timbered flat a mile west of town. It was up to me to start the dog. The old ranger would follow no one but Hank or me and took orders from no one after he got started on a trail. Therefore I elected to post myself on the brow of a ridge some four hundred feet higher and a mile to the north. Our stations were similar in one respect, both being located at the junction of logging roads that were cut out many years before. These roads formed an excellent crossing for a fox, if he were not pressed too hard, or when the day was wet.

Because of the stiff climb ahead of me, I carried a light Stevens rifle on a sling. Jim, who had level going all the way took his double twelve gauge gun, shells loaded with No. 2 shot and carried a lunch in his coat pockets. With the hound on leash I headed for the scene of the fox's banquet . . . The trail was cold, but I didn't have to explain that to Old Lobe. He had been started on cold trails before this. He took off easily and silently, but before he had traveled his first hundred yards he was off to the north with a long-drawn Ow-oo-o-that meant he had crossed a fresh trail. It appeared that this chase would be run from north to south, unless the fox took a notion to run out of the woods altogether, which was unlikely.

It was up to me now to get to my station. There was an open field to cross which might spoil my chance for a shot. The wind was in my favor. After about a quarter hour of rough going I stood facing a long stretch of the old road near the intersection of a log road that came up over the hill on my right. Just above the junction of the roads a little spring run trickled across the V-shaped intersection. A big flat rock lay on a slope just right for me to lie in prone-position and cover both roads, seventy yards away.

The day was dull and mild; the snow slowly thawing. I could hear nothing of the dog. I brushed the wet snow off the rock, stripped a wide piece of bark off a chestnut stub to use as a mat and settled myself to wait it out. The only visible sign of life was a skunk. He came up the ridge and started digging at a decayed log some sixty yards off to my right. He dug industriously for a long time, apparently without effect. I forgot the lapse of time and the business in hand. He was the most disreputable-looking

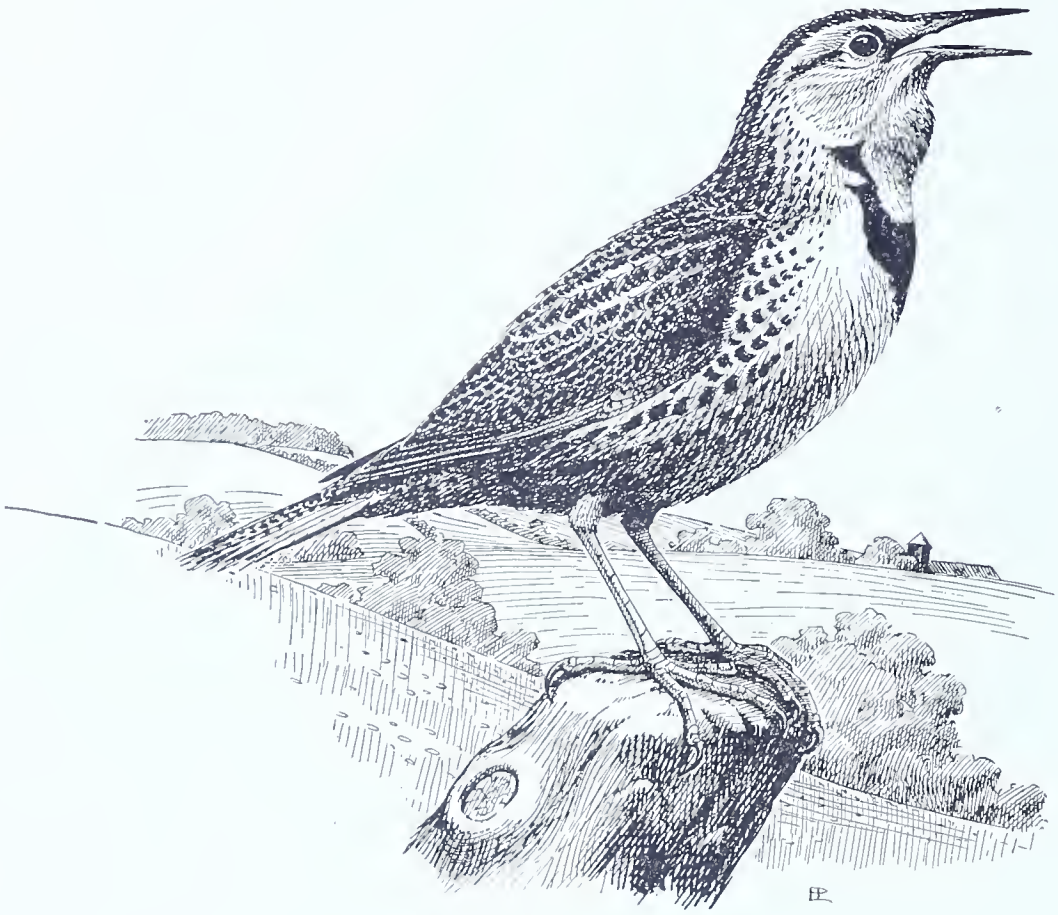
essence peddler I ever saw. Had he been clean he would have been nearly all white. His head was black and a narrow black stripe ran down the middle of his back and half way down the tail. Insofar as I could tell, the rest was white.

He stopped digging abruptly, looked around a bit and ambled back down the hill. A minute later, far to the north, I heard old Lobe. Another minute and I knew he was coming my way—fast. A spot appeared in the road. Something was coming my way, running easily. It was the fox. He seemed in no hurry although old Lobe's music must have been as audible to him as it was to me. Just before he reached the little run he stopped short, turning to lick at a hind foot. The dark spot under his ear was a mark I coudn't miss. At the shot he leaped straight up for his length and slumped back, kicking in the snow.

I hustled over there, shook the snow out of the pelt and gave him the once over. It was a clean kill. The little .25 caliber bullet had struck low in the right ear taking the left eye with it on the way out. Now I began to think of the hound. He should have barged up here like a wild bull, minutes ago. Almost at once I heard him give tongue, far past my position and below the brow of the ridge. Thinking he had lost the trail and was milling around down there, I grabbed my fox by the scruff of the neck and started to investigate. Old Lobe was not milling, nor was he off the trail. He had not followed the fox that had trotted up to me. He had gone hell-bent after the one he had jumped first and had it headed straight to Jim.

I tied the fore legs of my fox with Lobe's leash, hung him on the rifle barrel and hiked for the road just as the roar of Jim's gun echoed through the woods. A little later I found that worthy gent under a hemlock beside the log road, deftly stripping the hide off his fox. It was some larger than mine and much older. Jim was elated over the success of the hunt. "Boy Oh Boy!" says he, "What a day and what a dog! That old Lobe had this fox run raggedy and would have picked him up in another hundred yards. I dropped him less than twenty yards ahead of the old boy. He had to put the brakes on all four to get stopped six feet beyond where X marks the spot!"

We finished stripping off the fur and left the remains hanging low under the hemlocks, the fleshy parts slashed deeply to aid the birds and other denizens of the woods in disposing of the meat. Your guess is as good as any as to how come we made it a double that morning. I am inclined to believe it was, as Jim termed it, "Just a happenstance." "And we should worry," said he. "A double-decker this trip helps take the edge off the times we got nothing but the exercise." Jim pulled the lunch bag out of his coat and split the contents three ways, including Lobe. It would have been a perfect day, had we not forgotten to hold a post-morten to determine whether we had the culprit who stole Dick's pullet.



Meadowlark

# BIRDS WERE THE FIRST MESSENGERS

## By Harold B. Wood *

### *Illustrations by Earl Poole*

SINCE ancient times birds have been used by man to carry messages, and were the first means following direct communication from man to man. When they were first employed is not known, but records show that during the Second Punic War a swallow, taken from her nest within a city besieged by the Ligurgians, was taken outside for marking; then she returned to her nestlings and carried to the Roman garrison the news how many days later help would arrive, as indicated by knots on a string tied to her foot. This war lasted from 218 to 201 B.C. This act shows that at that time it was appreciated that birds would return to their nestlings, and could be utilized as messengers, if caught. Mark Antony lay siege to the camp of Modena Decimus in 44 B.C., and Brutus tied dispatches to the feet of pigeons which flew the news to the Consul's camp, according to Pliny. Pigeons were used to carry the news of the results of the Olympic games, by having the winning colors painted on them. The news of the results of a chariot race was carried 135 miles to Rome by a painted swallow returning to her nest in that city. Pigeons were used to carry war messages of the Crusaders, as during the siege of Jerusalem and later. The flight of these birds was much more rapid and more sure of delivering the messages than the runner who carried the news of the battle of Thermopylae in 480 B.C., he who makes such an impression upon school children in their history lessons.

Pigeons during the pre-Christian era were trained for this service, just as they now are. Lucius Axius, a knight of Rome, advertised pigeons for sale before 49 B.C. They brought 400 denarii per brace; since the silver denarius, or penny of the New Testament, was nearly twice the size of our dime, the high value then placed on these homing pigeons may be appreciated. Pliny wrote in 77 A.D. "Pigeon-fancying is carried to insane lengths by some people; they build towers on their roofs for these birds, and tell stories of high breeding and pedigree of particular birds."

Since then, down through the centuries, during many wars, up to and including the present World War, pigeons have been used as among the most dependable means for getting the messages through. They are most difficult to intercept, or to detect, are direct in their delivery, and even have many advantages over radio.

Besides this training of pigeons to carry messages, other ways have occurred to men to send messages by birds. Notes were tied to birds which were released, or numbered or engraved metal tags were attached, with the hope that somebody some where might capture the birds and locate their owners or decipher the messages. Marco Polo, who travelled through Asia from 1275 to 1295, writing of the sport of falconry, stated that the falcons had silver labels fastened to their legs, to show the names of the owners.

During the middle ages members of the nobility of Europe began to mark birds they captured and released, with metal rings. King Henry IV of France, who reigned from 1589 to 1610, and who developed the attractive features of Fontainbleau near Paris, was one of these sporting huntsmen. He captured a falcon and fastened a marked band to one leg. This bird was captured the next day in Malta, 1350 miles away, and recognized. A heron was captured in Germany in 1710 and found to have a marked metal band on its leg. Another banded heron was caught in 1728; it carried a silver band engraved with the name of Duke Ferdinand, and had been banded in 1669. Records in England show that ducks were being banded early in the eighteenth century; during the winter of 1708-9 a duck was shot in Sussex County with a silver collar around its neck engraved with the Coat of Arms of the King of Denmark. Another heron was banded with a silver ring in 1728 near Munich; and another banded in 1735 was captured in 1770. The Earl of Oxford placed on the foot of a heron a gold finger ring in the late 1770's and ten years later the bird was captured and recognized. These are a few of the early banding records.

The marking of birds with metal leg bands as a systematic study was begun in Europe in 1899, first with starlings, then with storks and ducks. In Europe the work is termed "ringing"; in America it is called "banding". In America differently marked bands were formerly used but they are now all out of circulation. All bands now used are federal, issued formerly by the Biological Survey, and now by the Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C., and correspondingly marked, or in abbreviations, with a different number for every bird. Each band is of that graded size that it can be used by an adult bird, but will be held on by a young bird in the nest, when old enough. Banders report their work to Washington. Any person who shoots, finds or captures a banded bird is requested to report at once to the Fish and Wildlife Service,

* President Eastern Bird Banding Association.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Black-billed Cuckoo

Washington, D. C., the name of the bird (if known), the complete number on the band (or send the band), with the date and place of finding, with the name and address of the finder. The finder or gunner is then told where and by whom the bird was banded. There is no fee provided for this reporting, nor is any fee or salary paid to any bander.

Audubon was the first bander in America. While living along the Perkiomen Creek near Philadelphia about 1803 he tied silver threads around the legs of some baby phoebes. The next spring he saw some of these same birds, proving that they had migrated southward for the winter and returned to their birth location the next year.

Bird banding as a scientific study was first suggested in America by Leon J. Cole in 1901. The next year Dr. Paul Bartsch of the Smithsonian Institution began the first banding work, by placing bands on black-crowned night herons near Washington, using aluminum bands. One of these birds was shot September 24, 1902, at Abington, Maryland, 55 miles from the place of banding. The next year Dr. Bartsch banded 75 more, one of which was found dead in Cuba two years later. That is the first long distance record of a banded bird, and was definite proof of where an individual bird nested and then spent the winter. Thus individual banders started, and soon increased in numbers. All did not become publically known, hence their records were never completed. A notable example is of the two ducks shot along the coast of New Jersey in 1907, each carrying a band engraved T J O D. Whose initials those were, or what they stood for has remained a mystery. Information concerning those bands, or of other privately issued bird bands (exclusive of homing pigeons) is earnestly sought.

The work of Jack Miner is well known. Near Kingsville, Ontario, 15 miles southeast of Detroit, Jack Miner established a sanctuary for ducks and geese in 1904 and five years later began to fasten his hand-made aluminum bands to his birds. The first duck banded was shot the following January at Anderson, N. C. In the spring of 1939 Jack Miner tagged his 20,000th Canada goose. His greatest work was not in banding, but in giving these waterfowl a safe place to rest, and to feed upon corn that was raised upon the place. This good work deserves the greatest support.

The banding of birds is a specialized study in biology. It is done to determine how long birds live, when and whence they migrate, to what extent they return to their old feeding or breeding grounds, their various mating propensities, variations in plumages, certain feeding habits and to gather other information. Its success depends upon the reporting of found, caught or shot banded birds. Since the work of banding birds was begun in 1920 by the Biological Survey and up to June 30, 1944, there have been banded 4,690,873 birds, with reports received of about 7 percent of them as being caught, shot or found dead.

Carrier pigeons are the best known birds for conveying messages. The homing quality of these birds is the result of training, combined with the instinct of return to known localities. The exercise of this natural instinct has not been satisfactorily explained. As a result of banding other birds, it has been learned that some birds, as catbirds and song sparrows, will return year after year to the locality in which they formerly nested, and in some cases were hatched. Some other birds, as robins, wrens and swallows, return less frequently, or in smaller proportion, while others never return. This return is more evident and sure if the bird is nesting. I took a song sparrow, which was banded and also probably nesting, three miles away and she promptly returned; later she was taken 6 miles, and again 15 miles away and in each instance returned in a few days to the traps.

The most singular return to its locality of banding is that of a cowbird. Satisfactory reasons have not been offered why a cowbird will go back to, or remain near the area where she has deposited her eggs in the nests of other birds. A cowbird will watch certain places and when she sees a bird emerging from a clump of bushes she searches until she finds the nest. A morning or two later she returns and deposits her egg in that nest. She never feeds her own progeny, but does she watch to see if they hatch and grow up? During one season I trapped the same female cowbird April 20, April 27, May 27 and June 10. Another banded female cowbird was caught in the same trap 21 times between March 25 and June 23. The most notable experiment of the homing habit of a cowbird was that by W. L. Lyon of Waukeegan, Ill. This bird was banded April 13, 1937 and shipped to Denver, Colorado, where it was released April 28, 1937, and on May 23, 1937, it was back in the trap at Waukeegan. It was then sent to Quebec and released there May 26, 1937; one year and a day later it was again found in the trap in Waukeegan. That wonderful performance of finding its way back could be proved only by banding, and reveals the value of obtaining complete and accurate records of banded birds.

There are many striking records made by banded birds, these little creatures which carry but a number, but one of so much import. Among these birds is the banded mallard which nested for 16 consecutive years on the roof of the same barn in Nebraska. And the Arctic tern which flew from the Laborador to Natal in South Africa, over 9000 miles in 4 months. Then the kittawake gull banded in Russia June 20, 1937 and found in Newfoundland September 20, 1937. And many others just as surprising.

Cardinal

**WELL—WHAT'S WRONG?—Answers on Page 22.**

# SAFETY FIRST---AND ALWAYS

During the week of October 23, 1944, which was set aside by Governor Edward Martin as "Hunt Safely Week," various sportsmen's clubs sponsored essay contests in the public schools.

The Aliquippa Bucktails promoted such a contest in the Aliquippa High School, offering $10 in War Stamps as first prize and $5 in War Stamps as second prize. These awards were won by Steve Vafeas, first; and Betty Bartosh, second.

We wish to thank the Aliquippa Bucktails and the faculty of the Aliquippa High School for their splendid cooperation and all the contestants for their wholehearted enthusiasm.

* * * *

## CARELESS!

By Steve Vafeas

In this war-ridden world of today, my mind holds but one kind of news worse than the worst which comes to a soldier's parents: "We regret to inform you that your son was killed in action on - - -." That is hard to take. However, each American soldier who gives his life for democracy has made that sacrifice for a truly great cause; in this fact there is some gratification, some comfort to mingle with the deepest regrets. On the other hand, what comfort, what compensation, can there be for a soldier on the front to hear that someone at home was "killed in action" or "badly wounded" while—hunting?

Today, in the factory, the office, the shell plant, we are all working hard. In our America, hunting, one of our many sports, is an accepted means of relaxation. This year shells are limited, equipment is hard to get, time is valuable, but if we select hunting as our means of relaxation, our means of recreation, there is no need to go out, heedlessly to kill a fellow hunter or "cripple ourselves" permanently in an effort to "enjoy ourselves."

During hunting season, one of the chief topics of discussion is the list of accidents. The hunting rules of safety must be many, probably difficult, extremely hard to execute, but actually the commandments of safety are few, such as: Treat every gun with the respect due a loaded gun. This is also the cardinal rule of gun safety. Carry only empty guns, taken down with the action open, into your automobile, camp and home. Always be sure that the barrel and action are clear of obstruction. Always carry your gun so that you can control the direction of the muzzle even if you stumble. Be sure of your target before you pull the trigger. Never point a gun at anything you do not want to shoot. Never leave your gun unattended unless you unload it first. Never climb a tree or a fence with a loaded gun. Never shoot at a flat, hard surface or the surface of water, and last but not least, do not mix gunpowder and alcohol.

You are liable for a $10 to $25 fine for disobeying the cardinal rule of gun safety. Our hunting rights are subject to revocation by the Pennsylvania Game Commission if while hunting, trapping, or through carelessness with firearms, we injure ourselves or others. In reality, though, the rules of safety are easy to observe and carry out. The causes of accidents are many, but in the majority of the cases avoidable. The base of almost all accidents is carelessness. Neglecting such quotations as, "Safety first—wear red always," and other simple safety first items are in many cases the root of fatal accidents, that could have easily been prevented. There is no necessity for accidents and certainly not for loss of life.

Must we be careless? A hunting accident's report for November 14, 1944 pointed out that already, eight were killed and 23 were wounded in Pennsylvania alone. What would happen to your son's morale, your brother's, a loved one's, if you were among these? Why not hunt safely, to return safely?

---

## HUNT SAFELY, RETURN SAFELY

By Betty Bartosh

Scientists and naturalists agree that wild creatures do not think, reflect or reason. But are their conclusions correct? Many instances of the cunning of animals in eluding their enemies challenge our belief that only man is capable of thinking. The fox, with the hounds after him, zigzags, backtracks, and runs on stone walls to confuse his trail. A rabbit darts in and out, under bushes, and evades the hunter. When it comes to safety in hunting, the hunter is the one who doesn't think, reflect, or reason.

Treat every gun with the respect due a loaded gun. Who knows, the gun may be full. Carry only empty guns, taken down or with the action open, into your automobile, camp, or home. You can insert the plug into the magazine to avoid accidents. Always be sure that the barrel and action are clear of obstructions. Carry your gun so that you can control the direction of the muzzle even if you stumble. Many hunters have been killed by falling on their guns. Be sure of your target before you pull the trigger; it may be someone or something you didn't want to shoot. Never leave your gun unattended unless you unload it first. You should not climb a tree with a loaded gun. It may prove fatal. Never shoot at a flat, hard surface or the surface of water. The cartridge may bounce back in your direction. When you go out hunting, don't mix your gun-powder with alcohol. You'll regret it if you harm one of your friends. Careful shooting prevents accidents.

The hours for hunting are between 8:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. If you are out before or after this period of time, you are at your own risk. The Game Law requires a report of every hunting accident in which a human being is injured by gunfire. If you happen to kill any bird or animal by mistake, deliver the carcass to the nearest employee of the Commission within twenty-four hours, and save seventy-five percent of the penalty.

Obeying the "do's" and don'ts" of hunting will prove advantageous to your life and your neighbor's. Some of the "don'ts" are: (1) don't shoot at game upon or across highways, (2) don't hunt while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or narcotic drugs, (3) don't shoot or discharge any firearm or other deadly weapon within one hundred and fifty yards of any occupied dwelling, or other building connected therewith, without the specific permission of the owner or tenant.

During migratory bird hunting, you are permitted a shotgun only. It is not to be larger than 10-gauge, and fired from the shoulder. This includes a hand operated repeating shotgun of not more than three-shell capacity in magazine and chamber combined.

You should know something about the animals you are hunting. The more harmless a creature, the more defenseless he is; therefore, in a crisis he is likely to imitate one that is highly dangerous. The opossum feigns death convincingly; his eyes even roll back, and his mouth falls open. Some animals try to imitate the hiss of a snake. The wild turkey-hen will do this while brooding eggs on her nest in the underbrush. The ability to remain motionless until danger has passed is a favorite ruse of wild creatures.

In conclusion, you should make your motto "Safety First—Alawys!"

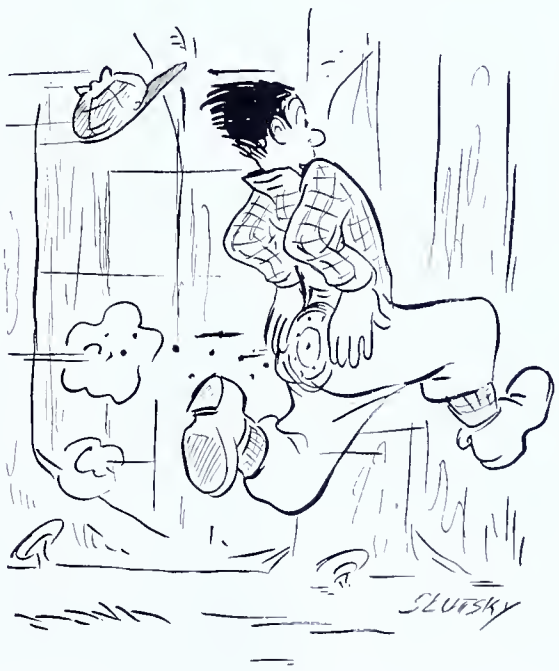
---

## HUNTERS YOU KNOW

### Anti-Red Robin

Robin La Head
Detested red
When hunting he would go.
He couldn't bear it . . .
Refused to wear it . . .
So hear his tale of woe:
He said that day,
"My suit of grey
Makes perfect camouflage."
But a mountaineer
Thought him a deer . . .
We carried him dead to our lodge!

Carsten Ahrens.



# ★ ★ ★ CURRENT TOPICS ★ ★ ★

## WITH THOSE IN SERVICE

"I have been flying quite regularly this month and am now flying in the Deputy Lead position for the squadron. I've kept the promise that I made to the fellows on the force back home and have dropped quite a few bombs with 'compliments of the Pennsylvania Game Commission' marked on them. Also some for Division 'G' and for various people and sections of the State. There are several targets that aren't of much use to the Nazis anymore.

"We had a long flight today and I saw some new territory, part of which made me a little homesick. There were some very nice looking stands of evergreens crawling up the slopes of the southern Alps. Most of the snow is gone from the southernmost ridges of the Alps but there is considerable on the higher peaks to the north. The mountains in that range (Alps) are, for the most part, very rugged looking and quite barren and the timber line is often a long way from the top. More like the ranges in New Mexico than our Alleghenies.

"Pass on my best wishes to everyone in the 'Family.' I'm counting the days until I can do it personally."—Lt. Nicholas Ruha, 724th Bomb. Sqd. H, 451st, APO 520, New York, N. Y.

---

"As you have probably noticed I am now located in France. I have seen quite a lot of country recently, and when the opportunity presents itself I cannot miss comparing game conditions here with those in the Keystone State. The terrain is quite similar, but game food and cover are lacking in most places. The war, of course, has had some effect but timberland and 'growed up' fence rows are not as common as in the Keystone State. I have seen quite a few cottontail tracks along stone rows, but have seen no other signs of game. I have seen quite a lot of beautiful song birds not common to Pennsylvania.

"Naturally over here our greatest and most important job is to get this war over, therefore, the only hunting being done is for two-legged varmints,' the Jerries."—Pvt. Harold E. Russell, 33774057, G.F.R.C. Pool, APO 131, c/o Postmaster, New York.

---

## Things You May Not Know

In the early days the Passenger Pigeon ranged over the whole United States by the millions and by 1890 not one of these birds was alive. The same thing happened to the Heath Hen, which was plentiful when the early settlers arrived. The Heath Hen had a close relative in the Prairie Chicken. which still is plentiful in the West. The Heath Hen's body markings were different from those of the Prairie chicken. It had from three to five long feathers on each side of its neck, while the Prairie Chicken sports upward of 10 long, rounded feathers.

---

Rattlesnakes do not seek to avenge the death of a mate. They are attracted to the death scene by scent.

**Frank L. Coen**

**Our best wishes go to Game Protector Frank L. Coen, of Lawrence County, who left the service on April 16 to embark upon another law enforcement career. Frank, who joined the Commission's staff back in May 1930, expects to be elected county sheriff.**

**If loyalty, faithful service and ability means anything he will succeed in his new undertaking. We hate to see him go, but wish him the best of luck.**

## CLUB NEWS

The Westfield Rod and Gun Club recently reported that their members contributed 374 man hours toward feeding deer during the past winter. Individual donations included 4250 pounds of clover hay, three loads of fodder, and grain amounting to $103.20. No doubt there were many other contributions of labor, hay and grain that have not been included in the above figures. Others have given the use of cars and teams.

The club enthusiastically received the plan to sponsor a program of planting evergreen trees on desirable spots throughout the countryside. Although time is too short to do any actual planting this spring, a general program will be worked out during the next few months and trees will be ordered for planting next year on selected sites. Any farmer or land owners in the section will be able to get complete information on this project soon.

---

We have just received a splendid little pamphlet entitled "The Elk County Sportsman" containing news of all the organized sportsmen's clubs in Elk County.

This very worthwhile publication is the handiwork of James Calkins, of Johnsonburg, President of the Elk County Sportsmen's Association.

A publication of this kind is bound to promote cooperation and good will between the various clubs of the county. Keep up the good work, Mr. Calkins!

## NOTICE TO SPORTSMEN

### Bounty Payments

"WHEREAS, Notwithstanding the successful predator control campaign waged by our employees and interested sportsmen during the past year, the statewide predator population of the Commonwealth, except in the case of the weasel, has not been reduced as anticipated due to (1) the absence of many hunters and trappers in the Armed Services, (2) pressing wartime occupational duties and travel restrictions, and (3) low fur prices as well as unfavorable trapping conditions last winter; and

"WHEREAS, The members of the Predator Control Committee, after exhaustive study, recommend to the Commission that bounties now in effect be continued and that a bounty be placed on the red fox in all counties except those indicated; and

"WHEREAS, The Commission, after giving due consideration to said recommendations and reports from numerous dependable observers, is of the opinion that it is desirable to continue certain bounty rates heretofore established, and to pay rewards for the killing of other predators throughout the Commonwealth, except as indicated, in the hope of bringing about a reduction in the numbers of said creatures and better thereby to protect game;

"THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Pennsylvania Game Commission, acting under the powers and authority vested in it by the provisions of Article XI, Section 1101 of the Act of June 3, 1937, P. L. 1225, as amended by the Act of May 1, 1945 (Act No. 149), entitled 'An Act concerning game and other wild birds and wild animals; and amending, revising, consolidating, and changing the law relating thereto,' by resolution unanimously adopted this second day of May, 1945, hereby continues for one year from July 16, 1945, the rates of bounty for certain predators as established on May 6, 1944, and places a bounty on the red fox for a like period, said year to begin July 16, 1945, and expiring July 15, 1946, both dates inclusive, the payments herein authorized to be made for the birds and animals enumerated below when killed in a wild state in any county of the Commonwealth during the period specified if presented in the manner and under the conditions stipulated in the Act aforesaid, except that no bounty shall be paid for either gray or red foxes killed in the counties of Chester and Delaware where a special Act of the General Assembly restricts the killing of foxes to the protection of personal property, the rates of payment to be as follows:

1. *Gray Fox*—The current $4.00 bounty on the gray fox to be continued except as above indicated;
2. *Red Fox*—A bounty of $4.00 to be paid for the red fox except as above indicated;
3. *Weasel*—The $1.00 bounty on the weasel to be continued;
4. *Great-Horned Owl*—The bounty of $4.00 to be continued for adult great-

horned owls and $2.00 for fledglings which have not left the nest; and

5. *Goshawk*—The bounty on the goshawk to be continued at $2.00 for adults and $1.00 for fledglings which have not left the nest.

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the foregoing resolution shall be duly published in accordance with the provisions of Section 1102 of Article XI of the Act aforesaid in the May and June 1945 issues of the PENNSYLVANIA GAME NEWS, this change in the rates of bounties also to be brought to the attention of the public through other available channels, the Executive Director being hereby authorized and directed to certify the foregoing rules and regulations as and for the act of the Pennsylvania Game Commission."

I hereby certify the above to be a full, true and correct copy of the resolution establishing bounties on certain predators killed in a wild state within the Commonwealth from July 16, 1945 to July 15, 1946, inclusive, as adopted by the Pennsylvania Game Commission at a meeting held May 2, 1945, public notice of which action is published in accordance with the requirements of law.

SETH GORDON, *Executive Director,*
Pennsylvania Game Commission.

## SHOT TRAVEL FAST!

Among the very many questions asked of Remington Arms Company each year is "How Fast Do Shot Travel?"

"Feet-per-second velocities on all shotgun loads have been published time and again and many sportsmen, as well as students of the science of ballistics, are familiar with the figures," said a Remington spokesman.

"However," he continued, "they are probably more interesting to most sportsmen when interpreted in terms of miles-per-hour. All sportsmen know that the velocity of shot is not the same when it reaches a target 40 yards away as when it leaves the muzzle of the gun, but comparatively few have gone to the trouble to figure the speed of shot at various distances . . . in terms of miles-per-hour.

"When a 12 gauge Remington Express shot load, consisting of 1¼ oz. No. 6 chilled shot, leaves the muzzle, it is traveling at the rate of 955 miles per hour. When it reaches a distance of 20 yards it is traveling 670 miles-per-hour and at 40 yards 545 miles-per-hour—still mighty FAST.

"The speed of other loads may be of interest. A popular Remington Shur Shot load, powder equivalent to 3¼ drams and 1⅛ ounces of No. 6 chilled shot, leaves the barrel at 885 miles-per-hour; at 20 yards it is going 640 miles-per-hour, and at 40 yards 512 miles-per-hour.

"The standard Remington trapshooting load, 1⅛ ounces of No. 7½ chilled shot, is moving 820 miles-per-hour when it leaves the muzzle, at 20 yards 600 miles-per-hour and at 40 yards 457 miles-per-hour.

"The popular Skeet load, which has proved of so much value to the aerial gunnery training programs of the Army and the Navy, gets out of the barrel at 820 miles-per-hour and at 25 yards, due to the light powder charge and the small shot (9 chilled), ambles along at the rate of 540 miles-per-hour. That 'ambling' is *also* MIGHTY FAST!"

Photo by Marc J. DeBerti

**Paul Booser with his own and Gene Smith's catch of beaver for 1945. Both men are from Brookville, Pa., and made their catches in Forest County.**

In the early days of Pennsylvania, beaver pelts were used for money.

The kingbird chases hawks, crows and even eagles, but is afraid of the tiny hummingbird and will flee from its attack.

Alligator's ears, which are found directly behind the eyes, are concealed and protected by skin flaps.

It is estimated that 3,000,000 bats live in New Mexico's Carlsbad Caverns.

## The Land of Plenty

*By* HARRY C. KUHNS
R. D. 1, Erie, Pa.

Once in the days of long ago,
When winters were long, with lots of snow;
When Indians roamed the hills so high,
Before the time of you and I,
In a land of plenty.

The land was covered with forests dense,
And no one knew of a barbed wire fence;
When Indians roamed for days, and nights,
And stood in awe at nature's sights.
In a land of plenty.

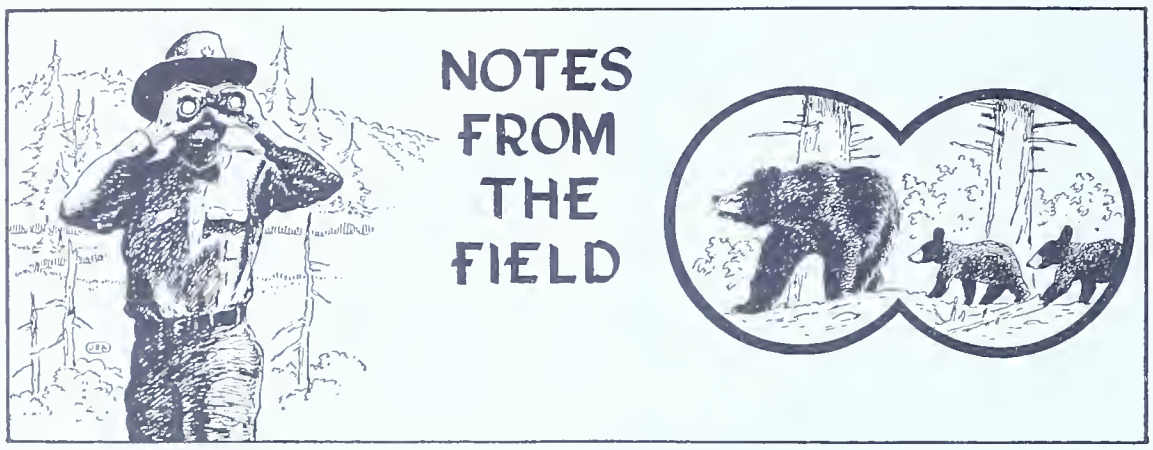
He would rise in the morning, and go to the lake,
And for his meal a fish he'd take.
He would not do like some we know,
Who take all they can, just for a show.
In a land of plenty.

When he wanted meat of a different kind,
He went hunting only, with one thought in mind;
To only take what he needed to eat.
He had a formula there that's hard to beat.
In a land of plenty.

So why can't we, both you and I,
Do like the Indian in days gone by,
And only take what we want to eat?
Let's try his formula, it's hard to beat.
For a land of plenty.

The weasel is the most blood-thirsty killer of all our North American animals. His favorite pastime is to run amuck on a killing spree. He does not have to be hungry to kill. He never thinks of storing food, for there is nothing provident in his nature.

**A bow and arrow was all the weapon Lester Newell, of the Transformer Application Department at Sharon Works, had when he brought down this 250-pound black bear. An enthusiastic archer for the last 15 years, Lester was hunting squirrels in the State Archery Reserve in Forest County when he dropped bruin with an arrow to the heart.**




"During the month of March two deer were accidently killed on the highways of Armstrong County. A large number of rabbits were also killed on highways within the county during the month.

"Upon inquiring about the deer mortality during the past winter, I was unable to learn of a single case in which a deer was found starved to death. Inquiry was made of sportsmen, farmers and gas line workers in various sections of the county.

"From inquiries made concerning other game, from the same sources, it appears that the heaviest mortality was among the quail with a loss estimated at 50%. Ringnecked pheasants were next in line with a loss of 20% to 25%."—Game Protector W. J. Brion, Kittanning, March, 1945.

---

"The rabbits did considerable damage to the fruit trees throughout the county. I saw a number of apple trees where the snow drifted in and left the rabbits access to the tops, which they chewed and destroyed. Parties had to cut the trees out of their orchards. In one orchard I observed four large trees that were cut down. Checking a considerable number of sumac patches I found 60 percent bark eaten. It was evidently their main food supply; hawthorne was next. In one instance I observed for the first time where rabbits ate rhododendron.

"The latter part of this month I noticed a considerable number of wild ducks migrating. The predominate species were scaups."—Game Protector Elmer B. Thompson, Johnstown, March, 1945.

---

"I think the past winter will long be remembered for deep snow and steady cold weather. It was necessary to keep your snowshoes handy. There were times I wondered if we would have any game left, but there were several things in our favor. The Game Commission made it possible for us to buy all the feed we needed and the sportsmen turned out in fine shape every Sunday to cut brush, haul out green stuff and dry bread from the stores, etc. I am glad to report that very few deer died. In the past years most of our deer died when the snow was going off. They would eat frozen grass, go down to the stream, get a drink and die. This spring when the snow left the weather kept warm and the deer came through O.K."—Game Protector William J. Carpenter, Mt. Jewett, March, 1945.

---

"Wildlife in this section seems to have survived the severe winter weather very well. There seems to be a fair amount of rabbits and ringneck pheasants, although quail are not very plentiful. Skunks and o'possums are numerous, especially o'possums. There were a good many foxes killed the past winter."—Game Protector E. J. Turner, York, March, 1945.

---

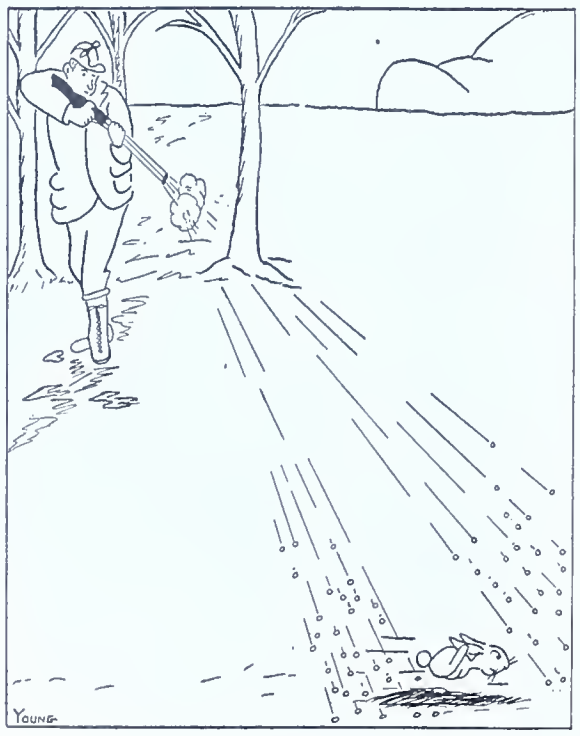
"On March 20 while checking my fox traps I found I had a red fox foot in one of them. It was raining very hard at the time. I noticed there was a lot of fox hair on the set. The next day I made an investigation and found the fox about 20 feet from the set. Upon examining the fox I found it had a lot of the hair pulled out and was partly eaten between the hind legs. All indications were that an owl killed it, tore the leg off, and moved the carcass away from the trap. The fox, a female, was carrying 6 pups."—Game Protector E. M. Woodward, Bedford, March, 1945.

---

"Two white robins came to Somerset this spring and are building a nest on a third story window ledge of a house near mine where they can readily be observed. One bird is almost entirely white and the other is white with dark wings."—Game Protector Millard M. Crooks, Somerset, March, 1945.

---

"Unseasonally warm weather has caused the development of fruit buds at an alarming rate. Shadbush will bloom in a few more days of weather such as we have been having. Wild crab is not far behind, and apple is beginning to show color in some of the buds. It is too much to hope that there will be no more freezing weather this spring; and, in consequence, we must not look forward to a very heavy crop of natural game food this year."—Game Protector L. B. Rosenkrans, Wilcox, March, 1945.




**"Oh, Boy! Am I glad he has an over under!"**

---

"I have noticed nearly all of our migratory birds, heard the gobble of turkeys in the mountains at early morning, and noticed that grouse appear to be hunting nesting sites. All this is about a month ahead of schedule. Something unusual is happening after a hard winter.

"All of our forest improvements, thinnings, clear cuttings, etc., were of no value whatever to a herd of deer that were yarded in the deep ravines along, and sometimes actually in, the streams."—Game Protector Elmer Pilling, Philipsburg, March, 1945.

---

"Game mortality was extremely light in this section, considering the extreme snow conditions. I have seen more big squirrels, ringneck cocks, deer and rabbits since spring arrived than were in evidence last year.

"Dogs were responsible for the loss of a great deal of game this spring before the snow melted. Many deer were killed and the toll of rabbits was considerable."—Game Protector Elmer D. Simpson, Cambridge Springs, March, 1945.

---

"I have noticed a decided increase in grouse this spring. No doubt the increase is due to the fact that during the past hunting season the grouse were staying very high on the mountains and have now moved into lower sections of cover."—Game Protector Ross G. Metz, Petersburg, March, 1945.

---

"There have been quite a number of forest fires in this section during March. The fire nearest the game lands was at Paint Mills, about ¼ mile from State Game Lands No. 72.

"The annual spring trials of the Venango Grouse Trial Club started on March 31 at Vowinckel with 29 puppies entered for the puppy stake. That is a record. It rained all morning for the puppy stakes, but by the time the junior all age stakes were run in the afternoon, the weather had improved."—Game Protector Edward Shaw, Leeper, March, 1945.

---

"On Saturday, March 24, while Jack Crist and local sportsmen were on a fox hunt near Caledonia, Crist's dog cornered a fox in its den among the rocks and in maneuvering around, fell down a crevice. Crist and his sportsmen worked until late Saturday night, Sunday and Monday all day and night, and part of Tuesday with drills, bars and wedges. All this time the imprisoned dog was fed weiners off a long-pointed stick thrust through a narrow crack. On Tuesday when the dog was liberated he seeemed none the worse for his experience and started looking for another fox.

"This two year old terrier was instrumental in local Game Protectors getting 56 foxes out of dens on the Letterkenny Depot last spring."—Game Protector John I. Hendricks, Chambersburg, March, 1945.

Hats off!

The greatest feeding program ever attempted was accomplished this year by the Clinton County Fish and Game Association. Hundreds of bushels of feed were distributed—by land and, thanks to the cooperation of the Piper Aircraft Corporation, by air.

During the winter the club sponsored a successful rabbit trapping program in the city of Lock Haven with the cooperation of local Boy Scouts and Game Protector Miles Reeder. The rabbits caught were stocked in Clinton County. Besides the 250 rabbits, the Game Committee stocked 290 ringneck pheasants and 45 wild turkeys.

The club sponsored organized fox hunts on Wednesday afternoons during January and February. Every member who participated favored holding the hunts again next year.

Hunt Safely Week programs promoted in school assemblies and theatres proved their worth. There were only two hunting accidents in Clinton County during the past hunting season.

Members of the association subscribed to 350 GAME NEWS and 240 *Anglers*. Because subscribers to either magazine make much more satisfied and cooperative members, everybody was urged to sell as many of these publications as possible.

More of the 1970 members attended the Directors meetings this year than in previous years. The association hopes during 1945 to attain a membership of 3,000 and to make the club the largest in the State.

These accomplishments and goals for future attainments are a challenge to other sportsmen's groups in the Commonwealth!

---

Michigan bought the largest number of hunting licenses during the last year, with Pennsylvania second and Ohio third. Michigan also bought the largest number of fishing licenses, with Ohio second, Minnesota third and Indiana fourth.

---

Because they have a highly developed sense of smell which enables them to find their food when they need it, squirrels do not have to remember where their nuts are hidden.

---

The Mourning Dove ranges over every one of our 48 states. Any place the bird can drop a few sticks crosswise will do for a nesting spot. As the Mourning Dove's territory is so extensive and its diet consists largely of wild seeds, it is given credit for outstanding usefulness. It does no damage to growing things. In the fall when the corn is cut Doves gather in large numbers in fields and work among the stubbles, picking up the loose grains of corn from the ground and not touching the corn in the shocks. All birds have peculiar traits. One of the Mourning Dove's is that its toes turn in as it walks.

---

While it is by no means common for them to do so, close observers of wild turkeys have, on a number of occasions, noted the fact that the hens sometimes grow beards. Occasionally they also grow spurs. The spurs, however, are not so prominent as those of the gobbler.

Mr. C. B. Lister, Secretary-Treasurer of the National Rifle Association, announces that N.R.A.'s Pre-induction Training Program may conservatively be credited with furnishing 67,900 basically qualified small arms marksmen to the armed services in the period between June 1942 and December 1944. This is the equivalent of more than four American army divisions.

---

When sportsmen complain that they are disgusted with the way the lawmakers bawl up hunting and fishing laws every two years, they overlook something. They forget that many of the cock-eyed bills introduced are born as resolutions in some sportsman meeting. Nearly all of the changes recommended come from some hunter or fisherman.—Seth L. Myers.

---

The fuzz from cattails, now used as a substitute for kapok in sound and heat insulation, has about 90% the warmth of the same amount of wool.

---

The wood rat, unlike the common rat, lives in the clean, open air of the country, usually in mountainous sections, with a home in a tiny cave; to scientists he is Neotoma magister.

Reports of a bountiful stocking of game;
"Baloney" says someone, and you say the same.
You hear where they "hid" those bass, trout and chub;
All of this free in a sportsmen's club!

Outdoor meetings from Spring until Fall;
Trapshoots, and plugcasting; prizes for all.
"Meeting's adjourned," and you grab for the grub;
What more can you ask from a sportsmen's club?

Thanks to the "Perkiomen Poet"

---

The average cock pheasant, dressed, will weigh more than the average cottontail rabbit, dressed. Pheasant weight 2 pounds, rabbit 1½ pounds.

---

The Argentine is now the second largest producer of vitamin A, ranking next to the United States; shark livers are the source.

---

America has always been known as a nation of riflemen. At the Battle of Bunker Hill, the British fired from the hip. The Americans *sighted* their muskets—and American marksmanship won that battle.

# Fur-Bearing Dynamite--The Fisher

are mighty few) that I have seen are poor, with the exception of some taken at game farms and used as advertisements in fur-breeding magazines.

Allan Brooks has a fine painting (plate V, page 288), reproduced in colors, of a Pacific fisher in "Fur-bearing Mammals of California," Grinnell, Dixon and Linsdale, 1937. The handling of the fur, physiognomy and alert pose are excellent and the drawing is, by far, the best example of the animal work of this top-flight Canadian bird painter.

Louis Agassiz's Fuertes' painting of a fisher, again in Geographic's "Wild Animals of North America," is one of the best; pose is fine, pelage color accurate and background characteristic. Incidentally this book, which includes National Geographic's "Larger and Smaller North Amerian Mammals," is the best popular work on the subjet in print, both from the point of view of text and illustrations—and there is no competitor within sight.

Audubon's plate of "Pennant's Marten" in his "Quadrupeds" is excellent as far as the coloring and technique of representing fur; but the animal's pose is stilted and unnatural.

Charles Copeland has some very good pen and ink outline sketches of fishers which are used as marginal decorations in William J. Long's "Northern Trails." In some of these the artist has caught the characteristic attitudes of fishers to perfection, yet this same artist has missed the naturalness of posture and anatomical structure in his more finished full-page halftones.

Seton, likewise, in his quick sketches of fishers in "Lives of American Game Animals," has captured typical poses which seem to me to be lost in his more carefully drawn and minutely executed washes.

With the reassuring reports from Maine and New Hampshire, supported by the remarkable record of New York's Adirondacks; with the growing suspicion (E. L. Poole) that fishers are again leaving their tracks

*(From page 5)*

in Pennsylvania's snow drifts, it is to be hoped that one of North America's most interesting natives is staging a come-back in northeastern forests. Implacably audacious, savage perhaps, but with courage and strength prodigous, fishers had roamed the aisles of frozen spruces for centuries when the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth. Now we could well do with some rugged pioneer stock regenerated in our woods—as well as elsewhere in our country.

*Literature Cited*

Elliott Coues
1877 "Furbearing Animals" U. S. Biological Survey.
E. T. Seton
1929 "Lives of Game Animals" Doubleday Doran.
E. W. Nelson
1930 "Wild Animals of North America" Nat. Geog. Soc.
Grinnell, Dixon & Linsdale
1937 "Furbearing Mammals of California," Univ. of Calif. Press 2 vols.
F. C. Lincoln, V. H. Cahalane, etc.
1943 "Fading Trails" Macmillan

---

Heard a good one the other day from a Pike Countian. Seems as though a fellow fishing through the ice in one of the lakes up there got a little tired and walked away from the hole for a while. All of a sudden a wildcat ran onto the ice and snatched one of the fish which the angler had caught a short time before.

---

While our Northern Robins are in the South enjoying the warm climate they range restlessly in flocks, feeding on the berries of the China tree, galberry and mangrove. It seems strange that these birds are not given to song in the South as in the North. When they arrive back in late February or early March they are full of song and start at once to feed on grubs working up through the lawns. The robin is the best known bird in the land because of its wide range. It holds a place in the hearts of children and grownups because of its friendliness and its perky little hop.

---

## Answer to "What's Wrong?"

1. A bee's stinger is in the tail, NOT at his nose or mouth.

2. This is NOT the way to find out whether or not a gun is loaded. It's an excellent way, however, to pave the way for your widow to collect your life insurance.

3. An animal running in the snow would leave tracks.

4. The most typical swimming position of grebes and loons (pied-bill grebe shown in drawing) is much lower in the water, with the back half awash.

5. Foxes (like dogs) have non-retractile claws on their feet; they cannot be drawn in. Cats have retractile claws and when normally walking along the claws would be withdrawn within the pads.

# "Dear Sirs"

Snow Bound, Pa.
November 30, 1944.

The Fox Paw Scent & Equipment Co.
Snow Bank, Maine
My Dear Sirs:

Well I had a talk with Mr. Lee the other night and asked him about your letter and if I should sell my fox scent mix to you. He seemed friendly enough but he said Lew remember only in a business way. He aint as bad as his bark. Then he said if I ever catch you with Virginia Ill brake your neck but he nows he coudnt do it if he wanted to. He says a $1000 is cheap and that I should not sell for anything less and he says if you dont want it there are plenty more who would be glad to get it. He says Ill win this year prize without argument. So if you want it at a $1000 you can do business with Mr. Lee our town lawyer. Hes Virginias father you know. Mebbe I wont be home when you come but he will be here to do business with you. I got 139 foxes up to now pretty good huh?

Yours truly,
LLEWELLYN PUNKMIER.

Snow Bank, Maine,
December 4, 1944.

Mr. Llewellyn Punkmier
Snow Bound, Pa.
Dear Mr. Punkmier:

We accept your offer regarding the sale of your fox scent mix. To the end of completing the deal, our field representative Mr. August Knight will arrange to meet you in the office of Mr. E. Robert Lee, Esq., on Saturday December 23, 1944, at 10 A.M. We trust this will meet with your approval.

Very truly yours,
FOX PAW SCENT & EQUIPMENT COMPANY.

Snow Bound, Pa.
December 7, 1944.

The Fox Paw Scent & Equipment Co.
Snow Bank, Maine
My Dear Sirs:

I paid Mr. Lee for his services already. He says Dec. 23, 1944 at ten in the morning will be o kay with him. He has everything ready for you.

Yours truly,
LLEWELLYN PUNKMIER.

New York, N. Y.,
December 20, 1944.

Mr. E. Robert Lee, Esq.
Snow Bound, Pa.
Dear Mr. Lee:

Guess Ill be stuck in this place for morn week. So you can go ahead and sell my mix to Fox Paw Scent Co. Mebbe Ill be home after new year but Im not sure. Say hello to Aunt Mary and say Im all o kay. Say hello to Virginia to and tell her I think about her often and often.

Yours truly,
LLEWELLYN PUNKMIER.

From the "Snow Bound Call"
December 26, 1944

Mystery and drama were crowded into the usually quiet town of Snow Bound. Excitement, too, prevailed for hours as the implications of drama were slowly unfolded. Even at this hour it is not clearly known just what has taken place.

About 10 A.M. on December 23, a large, heavy-set man entered the office of E. Robert Lee, Esq. A few minutes later a sedan carrying three men was observed parking on the street opposite the office. Approximately an hour later the man emerged from the building and was immediately accosted by one of the three occupants of the car who had, at this moment, left the car and walked to the opposite side of the street.

The man who had just emerged from the building at once attempted flight but was thrown heavily to the pavement while the other of the three strangers placed him in handcuffs and into the waiting car. After one of the three men had stepped into the office of E. Robert Lee, Esq. and, later, returned to the street, the car was seen to speed away.

Uncle Claude Hopper

## DO YOU KNOW?

The kingfisher each day eats seven times it's weight.

---

A fur-covered sea monster, more than 20 feet long, with enormous eyes and feet, resembling neither whale nor seal, was washed up by the Atlantic on the rocky shores of Scotland.

The beast, lying like an inflated prehistoric animal on the rocks, drew large crowds to the little Scottish village of Machihanish. Some at first were afraid to go near it. It is thought to have been killed during naval exercises or in action in the Atlantic.

---

Out of the number of ducks that are surface feeders the Black Duck is the most plentiful. Surface-feeding ducks obtain their food by dabbing in the water. Black Ducks seem to like the company of the Mallards and because of this many persons confuse the two species. The Black Duck is very rugged and stays on the waters of his choice until the ice forces it to leave in the winter. During the summer it rides the water like a board, never diving. It eats a large variety of foods—seeds, berries and small invertebrates (creatures without backbones) such as leeches, worms, tadpoles and salamanders.

*(From Page 7)*

Inquiry of Mr. Lee does not enlighten us. His only comment is that we exhibit some patience. The facts will be known soon.

T-E-L-E-G-R-A-M

New York, N. Y.,
December 27, 1944.

Mr. & Mrs. E. Robert Lee
Snow Bound, Pa.

Congratulate Us! I'm sure you won't mind when you know Lew and I were married on Christmas. He's swell. Will write you soon. Love.

LEW and VIRGINIA.

Headlines from the
"Snow Bound Call"

G-MEN ARREST NAZI SPY
Spy Admits Plans to Blow Up Power Dam at Snow Bound
THREE G-MEN FIND MAPS AND PLANS ON PRISONER
Trap Equipment Company Unknowingly Hire Spy for Two Years
Local Attorney Searches For Eloped Daughter

Washington, D. C.
January 5, 1945.

Dear Dad and Mother:

Well here we are in this beautiful city, Lew and I. It was impossible for me to write you sooner but I have taken the first opportunity to tell you something you will want to know. Of course, it concerns Lew or, to be definitely correct, Lewis.

Both of you have for a long while shown the utmost contempt for him—perhaps with some reason. I know that Dad has, on more than a few occasions, given Lew almost insufferable insults. But really, Dad, you wouldn't if you knew him as I do.

Let me confess by saying that he is not Llewellyn Punkmier. We are Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Towne—and happy, indeed.

I see that a certain spy was arrested in our quiet little town of Snow Bound. You see, Lew and I were the only ones who knew of the arrival of Mr. August Knight and his arrest was really no news to us. Lew's presence in Snow Bound was entirely in the interest of Government Work—as you see. Fox trapping was to him 'only incidental' (as Lew says).

He did have his hair cut—and for this alone you wouldn't know him. And does he dress well?? It has been said that clothes makes the man and I'm ready to go all out on that one.

Perhaps our real vacation will not come until this fall. Lew is awaiting a new assignment and we cannot make plans at this time. But we shall visit with you at the very first opportunity—perhaps during the fox trapping season later this year. Ha! Or would you just rather forget fox trapping, Dad?

In the meanwhile, you may use the address I have given you and simply address to Old 93, Box —. Lew says that you might forget.

Love to both of you,

LEW and VIRGINIA.

P. S. Lew asks that I beg for him your forgiveness for his sending your picture to the Fox Paw Trap & Equipment Company last Fall. He says, too, that you look as silly in a derby hat as he does in a trappers outfit. I found that old picture of you and mother in an old album in the attic.

# Grand National Grouse Championship

(From Page 11)

vania, in 1943 and the winner being the pointer, Caviar. The second one run in Michigan in 1944 and the winner being the setter Hall's Black Rocket. The third event is scheduled for New England in 1945. The winner????

The new officers of the club are President, James Byrne, Damariscotta, Maine; Vice-President, Charles H. Elder, Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania, and John M. Hadaway, Flint, Michigan; Secretary-Treasurer, Sam Light, Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania.

Judge Harry R. Hyde of Ridgway, Pennsylvania, is chairman of the Board and the Directors are John S. Applegate, Frank C. Ash, Herbert H. Cahoon, Dr. C. Ford DeVries, Dr. Harold D. Ersig, Edward B. Flack, Sam R. Light and W. Lee White.

The gallery while very large was very orderly and co-operative, for while they were very eager to see all the action they were very sporting about it. John Hadaway and various members of the conservation department acted as marshals. The social activities were very profuse, and hospitality was open handed and everywhere.

Ten or twelve ladies—God bless them—followed the trials and as seems natural shared the spotlight, with "even" bird dogs. We cannot remember them all (at our advanced age) but prominent among them were Miss Sally Flack, Mrs. Jack Applegate, Mrs. Walter Bublitz.

*The Running*

Chief General-Dawns Melancholy Baby: This brace of beautiful setters toed the scratch with the fire of combat seemingly seething from them. Chief was burdened with a slightly smaller than a normal sized cow-bell. The brush was soaking wet, the air was soggy and dark, and the only thing bright was the faces and their "coats of many colors" of the gallery, as they pressed forward anxious to hear the judges say "let them go" and to hear that magical call of—point judge!

The dogs got the word to go finally, and they were off with swiftness and dispatch. This No. 1 course is by all odds the worst one of the twenty-four courses that comprise this almost ideal grouse trial terrain, as it is rougher than the others, with deep, steep gulleys and many sharp turns. Baby was away in straight line castings, which carried her out and away from judgment, for many minutes at a time, and this happened several times in the first half hour. She was what we would term spasmodic, for when she was not running out too far, she was cutting back and in front of her handler too much. She ran fast, but rather low stationed and around the half hour mark she disappeared to be gone over the fifteen minute "lost and out" period.

General on the other hand was out to comb this tough course and comb it he did. Due no doubt, to the rough going and the gulleys, etc., it seemed to us he reported too much to his handler and came in from behind a little too often at first. He soon got straightened out, however, and delivered a real high class effort, running very fast, but with a little stilted gait in his hind quarters. He ran with extremely high head carriage and high merry tail. His diligence and application for the last forty-five minutes were those of the perfect, wide going, classy grouse shooting dog. He hunted both sides of his course perfectly, but didn't "dip in" far enough on his side casts for a stake of this calibre. Near the end of the heat he climaxed this almost perfect gun dog effort, by literally leaping into a high stylish, intense stand.

This was hair trigger work, for a second after he stiffened up, a lordly old grouse roared out of a clump of briars and a second after this, Mike shot and General remained a perfect and beautiful example of arrested animation. It was going to take real championship effort to keep him from further consideration. Down 1 P.M. Up 2 P.M.

Sam L's Skygo-Bublitz Lady Remington: Another handsome brace of setters were dropped on course No. 3, and it like the weather had improved greatly since the last heat. Both dogs started on a nice cast and Skygo continued to run wide but very much more "loggy" than usual, and at the end of about fifteen minutes he disappeared for the "lost and out" period.

Lady was very industrious, but never too wide and was too low stationed for this class of competition. Towards end of heat she ran too close to a grouse and as she cut across the trail, the bird popped out, and she stopped instantly to flush, so quickly in fact that she almost sat down. She broke very slightly when her handler approached and shot. Down 2:30. Up 3:30.

Halls Black Rocket-Montgomery: The sun had disappeared and a fine spitting snow greeted this brace of eager setters as they dashed away on course No. 5 and on what was to prove a most exciting race over wonderful grouse country. Interest became keen indeed as this pair fairly tore at the task ahead and they were not down long 'til Rocket struck pay dirt and literally slammed into a quick point.

He had this one away off and as Galloway approached, he dashed in and up a slight knoll and as he reached the top of this, he slid into a quick stop, crouched very low and very intense and as Galloway approached the top of knoll, the bird tore out and he shot and Rocket took a jump or two; but stopped at command. Monty was up the valley cutting the country out to the left at a great rate. Brought together they dashed away again and far out on a nice cast we saw a bird get out and leave a rocky area and as we approached, both dogs were standing up handsomely where bird had left. They both left this soon and Rocket went on but Monty took another cut or two and froze up again, but no bird could be raised on this one either.

As Rocket reached out fast and far to the right towards a heavily wooded section, a grouse sailed out of an evergreen high above and Rocket stopped instantly on this, as he saw the bird and he was steady to shot. Away on another cast he was running fast and free and he got a little too close to another grouse and as it roared out he slammed into an instant high styled stop and was steady under the gun.

These dogs were very wide, very fast and very stylish with Rocket much more tractable. Monty seemed to be "out on a limb" or a little too wide a good many times and a little more spasmodic, coming in from behind once in awhile. Rocket stayed out there and poured it on, running his country with intelligence and abandon. It had been a great, exciting performance with plenty of action. An early twilight had slipped up on us and the cars were a welcome sight at the end of course No. 6. Down 4:00 Up 5:00;

Nomads Lucky Pal-Halls Nurocket: It had grown much colder during the night and a light frozen snow was shifting down as this lovely brace of keen and eager setters were cast away on course No. 7. This was destined to be a most interesting and exciting race, as one of the contestants could have won it easily had he not committed one of field trials "unpardonable sins." Away they went like gazelles with each one running beautifully and questing the course with easy

**Chief General. The third series contender.**

grace and far reaching casts. Nurocket was running high styled and beautifully, just bouncing about and making every step count. He kept this extremely high stylish, snappy manner of going up until near the mid-way mark, when he started to ease up a little and his wide casting became much more restricted and it seemed to us that he reported too often to his handler during the last thirty minutes. He was not down long until he slapped up on a quick intense point, but no bird could be raised. Along towards the end of heat he was standing on a beautiful high stylish point in a clump of low evergreens, off to the left of the trail and from where Pal had his encounter with grouse.

Pal really turned in one of the best and most consistent grouse trial heats we have seen in many a day and he maintained his wide, fast stylish, intelligent casting to the very end. He ran with an altogether different stride and manner of going than Nurocket who cut his country in wide quartering, merry casts, while Pal on the other hand, seemed to pick out objectives and run to them extremely fast and with a long leaping antelope like stride, with his head and tail just above the line of his back, and the tail just moving enough to make it attractive. He was very biddable and really dipped into the sides and front of his course like an eager experienced grouse dog, with abundant field trial range and speed.

He kept this excellent race up all through the heat and along toward the end of the hour, we found him well out ahead and as he crossed the trail he slid into an instant point on a low crouch with waving flag. He only held this momentarily and as we approached up the trail, he left the point and slunk back about one hundred feet to the right. As he was sneaking back again to this original point, a bird went out of a small tree right to the left of the trail and very close to where he was first pointing. Pal came up to this same area again and as he was pathetically trying to decide whether to establish a solid point or keep on "blinking", a grouse roared out and off the ground a little to the left of the tree.

During all of this excitement, Nurocket had cast up through bottom and established a beautiful and extremely high stylish, intense point in the clumped evergreens, we mentioned at the end of his race and Galloway shot as the bird left the tree in front of Pal's point and Nurocket was solid. He was about a hundred and fifty feet away from the tree near the trail and had undoubtedly gotten a "wiff" of these birds as they fed up through there. Man what a chance for Nomads Pal. This had been a beautiful piece of grouse country over courses No. 7 and 8. Down 9:00 A.M. Up 10:00 A.M.

The sleet had left off and conditions were much better as the next brace toed the line under leaden skies.

Spunky Creek Pride-Kittys Major White: This brace got off splendidly and each as independent as could be. Pride is a large handsome bitch in repose and in action she is the answer to a grouse hunter's dream dog, grand is the word to describe her manner of going and in fact, her whole actions. She filled any standard ever written for high style and easy graceful action, supreme diligence and perfect handling. Had she "dipped in" a little deeper on her casting, her ground race would have been unbeatable, to sum it up, a most perfect gun dog endeavor. Near the end of her heat she pointed stylishly in same vicinity Major had pointed in, but no bird could be raised. After this and for the remaining few moments of her effort, she searched her ground over too mechanically and lowered her nose perceptibly.

Major started out very well indeed and for the first half hour he performed very nicely with good diligence, enough range and speed and cast intelligently. After the half hour mark however, he lost a lot of his flash or punch and while he ran out wide enough, his style and animation were only fair. He had two called points to which no birds could be raised, on one of these near where Pride later pointed he was very staunch and held for quite some time, but tramp as he might, his handler could not produce a bird. Courses 9-10. Down 10:00 A.M. Up 11:00 A.M.

Dotty Rodfield-Communique: This brace got away with a rush and this word "rush" covers it pretty well, for the whole heat seemed to center around it. Dotty rushed away on a wide, fast cast and was not seen for many minutes. We can dispose of her quickly by saying she was extremely wide and diligent and practically out of hand all during the heat. The secret of a wide, fast, successful grouse trial dog, is to be comfortably biddable.

Communique or "Bucky" who is naturally a wide, fast, diligent dog, was for some reason or other "rushed to death" by his handler, on this occasion. This kept up for a large part of the first half hour and as we crossed the trail ending course No. 11 into No. 12 things began to happen. Bucky came tearing along toward some open woods

*(Continued on page 28)*

**Sam L's Fiora and Sam L's Skygo.**

# Review of the 25 Year State Game Land Purchase Program

(From Page 3)

The first Refuge Keeper's headquarters on the first Primary State Game Refuge established in Pennsylvania, State Forest land in Clinton County. Photo taken in 1922.

New Refuge Keeper's headquarters erected in 1927. Primary State Game Refuge No. 1, Clinton County.

located, and where game lands were being acquired, more adequate and comfortable quarters, with better roads to them, would have to be provided. In many instances during severe winter months the only means of transportation which a Refuge Keeper could use to go for his mail, newspapers, food, and medical supplies was by travelling ten or more miles on snow shoes. Securing the services of a doctor was almost impossible at times.

To improve their living conditions, the Commission constructed four new dwellings with suitable outbuildings over plans prepared especially for the purpose during the biennium June 1, 1922 to May 31, 1924. They were on State Game Lands Numbers 25 and 28 in Elk County, No. 14 in Cameron County, and near Primary Refuge No. 5 (now No. 505) on State Forest land in Westmoreland County. Dirt roads to headquarters were improved to provide better access. Somewhat better dwellings, barns, garages, etc., were constructed during successive years, and by May 31, 1932 the Commission owned 25 well built comfortable dwellings and maintained two others belonging to the Department of Forests and Waters. A conservative estimate of their value at that time was $169,483.00.

The pendulum began swinging in the other direction during the 1932-1934 biennium. By this time it had become evident that the increasing number of unit blocks of State Game Lands and primary refuges on State Forests made it impractical and unnecessary to assign a Refuge Keeper for each unit and provide living quarters. In order to take care of certain land management units remote from resident Refuge Keepers, a few District Game Protectors were charged with the management of certain units in addition to their customary law enforcement duties.

The next step was a plan for grouping together all unit blocks of State Game Lands, and other units including Auxiliary Refuge Projects, within a specified territory and assigning a caretaker for each group. This plan was finally adopted and put into effect in 1936, provision being made for 44 management groups with a like number of Game Protectors-Land Management. The title Game Refuge Keeper was dropped for that of Game Protector-Land Management, or for short, Land Manager. Only 24 of the managers were supplied with Commission owned headquarters, certain other buildings being considered unsuited because of their location. Other managers lived in towns in their own or rented houses. During subsequent years, certain headquarters buildings were abandoned for one reason or another, and disposed of by sale or otherwise. However, several new houses were constructed in what was at the time considered advisable locations. Some of these have since been

Photo by George B. McCabe.
Original "residence" for Refuge Keeper on State Game Lands No. 12, Bradford County. This photo was taken on April 13, 1923.

New Refuge Keeper's residence built in 1928. State Game Lands No. 12, Bradford County.

Original residence used by Refuge Keeper on State Game Lands No. 14, Cameron County.

Photo by George Cederborg.
New Refuge Keeper's residence constructed in 1923. State Game Lands No. 14, Cameron County.

disposed of and only 23 headquarters are now in use.

As early as 1922, consideration was given to the improvement of food and cover conditions for wildlife on State Game Lands and other holdings. In this connection, the following is quoted from the Commission's Report for the 1922-1924 biennium:

"With the rapid decrease in natural food and cover for wildlife, due not only to lumbering operations, forest fires, chestnut blight, and adverse weather conditions, but in tillable sections due to the tendency of the modern farmer to clear up and burn out every old fence row and briar patch, and drain every swamp, game has been hard pressed for winter food and cover."

During the 1922-1924 biennium, Refuge Keepers planted on State Game Lands and refuges on State Forests, 241,319 coniferous forest tree seedlings for reforestation and cover purposes, 96,446 forest tree seedlings to produce food for game, 12,150 berry bushes, 9,806 cuttings and 292 quarts of nuts and seeds to supply more food for wildlife. Similar plantings were made during subsequent years.

A pertinent comment on the subject made in the 1922-1924 Commission Report is of interest:

"From experience we have found that it is useless to plant species demanding plenty of light, and ordinarily thriving only in open places, anywhere in forest cover, as they are simply choked out and no benefit is derived therefrom. The only way that successful planting of such species in forest cover can be done is by opening up and keeping trimmed out all other growth until the seedlings or cuttings attain sufficient growth to overcome the handicap of other vegetation. This cleaning out operation is very expensive and its advisability questionable."

Planting forest tree seedlings to provide cover and game food producing shrubs and vines for the production of foods had become customary practice although the establishment of some of the species is nothing to look back upon with much pride. Failures were too frequent. In 1924, a special nursery was established at Refuge No. 3 (now No. 503) in Franklin County for the production of game food producing species, which, however, was maintained for only a few years.

Migrating wild waterfowl was not overlooked. During 1925, fairly large quantities of wild rice, wild celery and other seeds and tubers were purchased and distributed for planting in suitable streams, ponds and lakes on 49 different locations in 28 counties in an effort to supply more adequate quantities and varieties of foods for such species. Other similar plantings were made in subsequent years, and although none too successful, it shows that the Commission was not completely neglecting to do what it could do to supplement natural foods.

In more recent years, in addition to planting forest tree seedlings and food producing plants, etc., cuttings of various kinds have been made in an effort to increase food for game.

*Radical Change of Policy in 1936*

With the acquisition of slightly more than a half million acres of State Game Lands, mostly in forest territory, the Commission in 1936 decided the time had arrived for a definite change of policy. At its meeting on April 9th, the Commission decided to place major emphasis on improving the hunting of farm-game species in the better agricultural sections of the State, and endeavor to increase the supply of game by developing a better environment for it on lands owned or under nominal control of the Commission. The new policy may be summarized as follows:

1. Curtail the purchase of State Game Lands especially within extensive and remote forest territory, and exert greater efforts toward acquiring marginal and submarginal farms unfit for agriculture.

2. Allocate a larger proportion of the 75c fund for the management of lands than had previously been provided, reducing proportionally the allocation for securing lands by purchase, lease, etc.

3. Reduce the size of certain of the old large refuges in forest territory to lessen protection given the deer herd, and establish many new ones of smaller size especially for the benefit of wild turkeys, ruffed grouse and other small game species.

4. Group together all Game Lands and other managerial units within a specified territory, as hereinbefore mentioned, and assign a caretaker, to be known as a Game Protector-Land Management, to each group for protection, development and management.

5. Create Cooperative Farm-Game Projects in the more intensively cultivated sections of the State and near centers of population, their purpose being to improve small game hunting conditions for both farmers and sportsmen.

The need for improving farm-game hunting conditions had long been recognized, and the plan finally adopted has proven fundamentally sound. The wisdom of its continuation, in fact expansion, is not only unquestioned, but advocated. The reduction of certain large refuges and the establishment of many more small ones, as well as the Group Management plan had been considered for a number of years. Results have been fully justified.

The only drawback to the new policies was that the land purchase program, although not intended, received an almost fatal blow. In explanation of this statement, and to correct certain erroneous impressions still held by some sportsmen as to the amount of money previously and presently available for purchasing State Game Lands, a brief analysis of funds allocated and expended for this purpose as well as for securing the use of other public lands, leasing private land and the management of the various land classifications appears advisable.

Incidentally, the former Bureau of Refuges and Lands which had for many years handled all matters pertaining to the purchase and leasing of lands, and the management of the system of refuges and public hunting grounds, was split into two divisions on January 1, 1939 when a general reorganization of the Department went into effect. The Division of Lands was designated to handle the acquisition of lands by purchase, gift, or otherwise; securing the use of public and private lands through agreements of various kinds; other legal matters and records pertaining to land holdings; engineering and mapping activities; granting rights-of-way and other easements; and the occasional disposal of inorganic substances. The Division of Game Land Management was and still is charged with the development and management of all land holdings with the exception of game farms.

*(Continued on page 30)*

# Grand National Grouse Championship

(From Page 25)

and ran too close to birds which were working in open brown leaves. One roared out at Bucky's approach and he stopped instantly and styled up beautifully, and staunchly as another grouse left, remaining steady as Smith shot. Smith got his "hobbles" on after this and Bucky laid down an almost perfect ground race for the last half hour.

Near the end of Course No. 12 he slashed into some heavy evergreens to the left of the trail and had two more opportunities on two different grouse, but as before, he moved in too close on them and they didn't stay put. We cannot help but feel that "Bucky" was a reflection of his too anxious handler, today. Down 11:30. Up 12:30.

We repaired to Gladwin for a very enjoyable, warm luncheon as the air had been very tangy all morning.

Same Wahoo Clipper-Colonial Jake: Not much to report here as Jake dashed away on his first cast, which was very wide and fast, refusing to heed his handler's voice or whistle and was seen no more during the heat. Clipper raced back and forth searching diligently in a rather restricted area, for about ten minutes and then he disappeared to be seen no more. After the usual wait, we had a long dull trek across courses No. 13 and 14, putting up four grouse, to pick up the next brace. Down 1:30.

(Note: The artists referred to below are Edmund Osthaus and Percival Rosseau, both celebrated painters of bird dogs.)

Caviar-Sam L's Skybuster: This looked like the best course we had been on so far and both dogs took full advantage of this pretty breakaway, for they were off like shots and seemed determined to run a high class heat. This beautiful wide, slashing casting kept up on the part of both dogs for about ten minutes with Caviar a little too wide or hard to swing if any criticism could be put upon him. Then this grand pointer seemed to settle at this stage and he ran this beautiful country for the next twenty minutes like the real champion he is. He was out front punching at it with all the class, speed and style one could ask for and his wide sweeping diligent casts to both sides of the course was a pleasure to behold.

Skybuster was doing a swell, fast, stylish job also, and at about this point the course roughened up some and as we rode the trail along a sloping hillside, far down to the left was a wonderful green valley with a rippling stream and giant virgin evergreens lining the banks. As we approached the head of this valley, the gallery could look down upon a sight worthy of the brush of an Edmund Osthaus or a Percival Rosseau for there against this beautiful background stood this handsome, glistening white pointer on a perfect, stylish stand. His beautifully marked white, black and tan bracemate was backing superbly. What a sight!

Ben had his bird pinned to perfection and both he and Sammy were perfect at wing and shot. As the dogs were sent on two or three more birds broke out from among the evergreens and roared up a hill. Caviar soon slapped up on another point, which he corrected almost instantly and soon established another stylish stand near where birds had left. He held this for about a minute, but no other birds could be raised. Up over the hill to the right and around the head of the valley, the course became fine, wide and ideal again. Ben was running it beautifully and at his very best.

Shortly after the half hour mark, Sammy showed signs of sickness or "quick fatigue," after being gone on a long cast so Tuttle took him up. Caviar or Ben was away on a beautiful cast and was simply perfection in has fast, wide, stylish diligence; he simply scintillated as he ate up vast areas of ground and he was perfectly biddable. He went away on a cast with about twenty-five minutes yet to go on his heat and then he disappeared completely. We did not actually see him on a deer, but we assumed he had one going. for we saw the deep prints of a big one that was really in a hurry.

"I dunno. I saw it done in the movies."

Ben did not reappear on the course under judgment. This was pathetic as we put up four or five other grouse nicely distributed as the party rode back to the end of course No. 16. What a course, what a fine performer and what a chance and nine grouse. Zowie! Down 2 P.M.

Sam L's Fiora (a bye): The sun had broken through a bright blue sky and conditions were just as ideal as these courses No. 17 and 18 were splendid and as Fiora was perfect. We are sure that no man who has seen and followed the destiny of this little setter fire-ball, will object to the title we are now about to bestow upon her—First Lady of Grouse Trials, for she richly deserves it. She has probably won more important grouse trial stakes than most any grouse dog in America today and for those others of her sex, well she is just a mile ahead. Like most animals or men, in which the spark of genius at times becomes a bright arc—she is hard to handle. We followed her at the Black Forest and Venango trials shortly prior to this event and like the little girl of the nursery rhyme:

"When she was bad,
She was horrid."

Fiora like another famous "First Lady," must have said this is "my day," for away she went like a veritable cannonball with all the verve, dash and high fast cracking tail action that one could conjure up in his most vivid imagination and fondest memory of the great field trial bitches of history. Would she swing? Was she going to be biddable? Well, a little swift hard handling for the first five minutes and Tuttle settled down to his usual quiet, easy graceful manner of handling, for she was responding beautifully and handling like the proverbial "kid glove." Surely this bitch fulfilled the famous "1919 standard" today for in every vibrant, stylish wide dashing cast, "class" was defined. About ten minutes out and she slapped up hard on where a bird had been heard to flush from.

After another brilliant fifteen minutes as she dashed across a piece of open country, a grouse roared out of clumped evergreens—well ahead and she stopped instantly to flush, holding rigidly and with "high style" 'til Tuttle shot and sent her on. No fault accrued here. Dashing away again it was a real treat and well worth the hard riding and many disappointments to see this beautiful performance. About the fifty minute period, she was working fast and snappily through a rather thick copse, when she made game, roaded swiftly with high head and merry tail, into a clump of slashings in a "popple thicket" and as Tuttle moved in on her with Judge Hyde tailing him close, the clarion call of "point judge" rang out and as Tuttle stepped in ahead of her a big grouse hurtled out and Fiora remained a high styled rigid statue.

She finished up going away and running bolder and better than in her first ten minutes. What a heat, the consistency best by far, judged from the high aims of this stake. If we could have only stopped here, but alas those "rules." Down 3:30. Up 4:30.

*Stray Notes*

"Running Rules," those figurative fetters of judicial freedom, those mystic manacles of mature, mental machinations were surely in evidence here for if ever a dog ran a championship race and capped it with championship bird work it was, Sam L's Fiora—First Lady of Grouse Trials. The running rules say and I quote: "At the conclusion of the elimination heats the judges shall designate two (2) or more dogs to run in a required second series heat of two (2) hours duration."

To prove again how unpredictable and thoroughly mysterious the ruffed grouse really is, we give you this glorious, damp ideal Saturday morning, when even the oldest and sagest grouse hunter would have said Bravo! if asked about conditions and one would have thought that grouse would lay beautifully and could be nailed like real magic at twenty yards. They were just the opposite, for they were as wild as "March Hares" and simply wouldn't stay put and although we found and saw many of them—once again, sound, complete and perfect bird handling was at a premium. We had fore-

gathered at the Keeper's Lodge at Gladwin Refuge and the first brace of the two hour finalists were put down on courses No. 19 and 20, with weather conditions perfect and a great and enthusiastic gallery on hand.

A word about the bracing for the finals may not be amiss. While "Pride" had run a most attractive heat in the first series it had been a "class" effort without bird work and her sex in placing her as a brace-mate to Fiora who had shone so brilliantly, was a large factor in giving her the break over Black Rocket and Chief General, in the starting brace.

*Two Hour Finals*

Sam L's Fiora-Spunky Creek Pride: Fiora was away like a cannonball, simply blazing with verve and style and her first cast carried her across open space to a woods about one hundred and fifty yards or more off to the right. This woods she entered and disappeared to be seen no more under judgment. There are three possibilities—she either was lost on point, took a deer or just bolted—these are only conjectures. Nothing definite was known by the judges—after her first far cast.

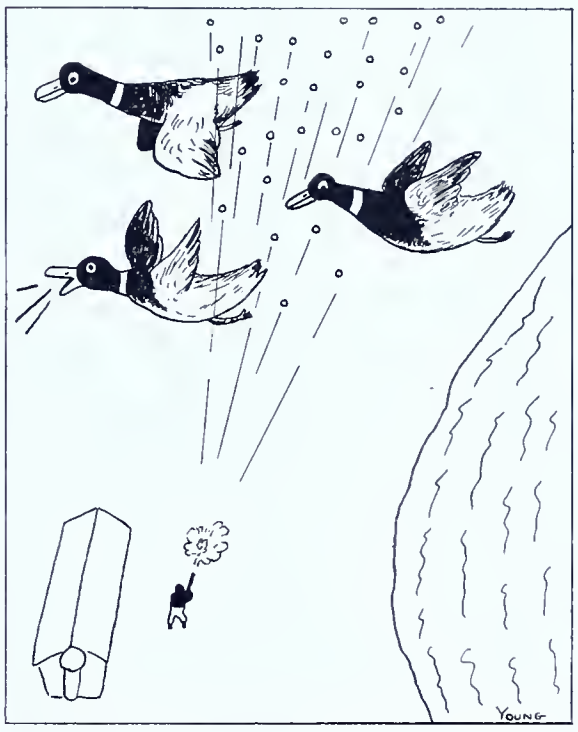
Pride repeated and bettered her graceful and brilliant heat of the first series, because she "dipped in" deeper on her side casts and was even more biddable than before, if such a thing is possible. Surely this was the most harmonious pair that ever appeared in a grouse trial, for both dog and man appeared absolutely atune and they made no mistakes whatever. Pride was not down long 'til a big grouse roared off a side hill and as she heard and saw him, she stopped instantly and watched him go. This happened twice more at about ten minute intervals and on both occasions she stopped instantly on high style points. No demerits could accrue here as these birds just were not laying for this glorious searching animal.

Pride was brilliant up 'til and shortly over the hour mark, when once again she dropped her head and began to look as though she enjoyed pottering a little and almost instantly these three cold blooded, cruel and heartless judges went into a quick huddle and ordered her up. A long trek back across course 21 on which we started three or four more grouse, brought us up to the starting point of courses No. 22 and 23 and where we were about to enact the struggle in Black and White, or the Battle of the Trojans, for there they were, the Great White Chief, and the Great Black Rocket straining leather and quivering vibrantly for the contest ahead.

As Mike was about to slip the bell on Chief, we asked him if it was absolutely necessary and if not would he kindly desist. He hastened to assure us it was not a necessity and graciously removed the bell. We like to think this contributed slightly to Chief's brilliant performance.

Halls Black Rocket-Chief General: Away they went like a couple of black and silver meteors and on this occasion at least, Rocket met his master at wide, wild, fast, frantic casting, for the Chief took the lead and held it well for the first few minutes in what was almost a dog race. Rocket after about five minutes of this seemed to go into a sulk and for the rest of the first hour delivered what in our interpretation, would be only a good gun dog race. It was by all odds the poorest heat in six or seven we had seen him run this season. He kept going and searched diligently, but with nothing like the terrific punch and class he usually puts behind his efforts.

Chief, on the other hand, was the essence of perfection. He was extremely wide, extremely fast, extremely stylish and note this well—extremely biddable—in short gentle reader for one and one-half hours, this beautiful high styled, intensely diligent dog turned in one of the greatest ground working races in our humble opinion, that it is possible to imagine, after having seen hundreds of them turned in. His handler must have known not only his dog, but the course




**"Spread out boys! Make room for that flak to get through!"**

as well for he carried a large canteen of water and watered him three times during the heat.

Three or four grouse had roared out during the first part of the heat and while the dogs could not be blamed, Chief styled up at least twice to indicate where they had left. Mike called point and shot in a deep clump of low evergreens behind a large dead stump and the dog was styled up beautifully and steady under the gun. The actual bird or evidence of one was not seen or heard by any of the judges.

Shortly before the half way mark, Rocket seemed to undergo some mental transition, for he came out of his doldrums with a bang and delivered during the last hour, one of those great, slashing, powerful, wide searching stylish races for which he has become famous. This was a sight for the grouse trial gods to witness, for during the third half hour period, these two gorgeous setters flashed over this course like white and black arrows and their races were diligent "class" defined.

Shortly after we passed into the final half hour of the two hour grind, Chief began to show signs of fatigue and for the first time during this perfectly glorious race, he started to depend on his worshipful handler. During this period when he had cut his speed and range down to gun dog calibre and while he was at his tiredest ebb, he had two splendid and perfect chances to find and handle grouse. On both occasions though, he passed very close to them and as the birds roared out, this valiant but tired crusader, stopped and pointed stylishly to flush, being steady to shot.

With about ten minutes to go and while he was running at his best clip during these trials, Rocket threw his head in the air, turned sharply to the right and roaded high, fast and stylishly about one hundred feet, into a clumped alder thicket and Galloway and Judge Hyde, who was afoot, found him locked-up on a beautiful high stylish point and the bird laid well and Rocket was steady as several persons approached to see his work and the bird roared out. He finished going away. Down 11:00 A.M. Up 1:00 P.M.

The judges went into a huddle and after much discussion and deep meditation on the pro's and con's of whether to call it off or to be satisfied with something a little less than the championship ideal, it was finally decided to give Chief General one more opportunity to handle game to go with his stellar performance and if he fell down, to crown Black Rocket in spite of the drab portion of his second series effort.

*Third Series*

Chief General-a bye: With about a half hour's rest, Chief was brought to the scratch and Mike slipped the bell on him before he broke away. The significance of this is that this game setter, with this short rest cast out wide and fast, down a valley and around the foot of a steep hill far to the left and the tinkling grew fainter and fainter and finally it and the dog disappeared and as we waited he appeared on the far hillside, working it out diligently and with great style and as he worked towards us, the faint tinkling of the bell again became audible. What a cast!

He worked up in front and to the left and went into another clump of tag alder and as he turned and left, two grouse roared out behind him. Man, what a chance! He was ordered up immediately and Halls Black Rocket was declared the second winner of the Grand National Grouse Dog Championship.

*Summary*

Gladwin, Mich., November 9

Judges: Dr. C. F. DeVries, Herbert H. Cahoon and Dr. L. J. Hyde.

GRAND NATIONAL GROUSE CHAMPIONSHIP (One-Hour Elimination Heats; Two-Hour Finals) 4 Pointers and 13 Setters.

Chief General, white and orange setter dog, by Chief Inspector-Chicora Delight. W. Lee White, owner; Mike Seminatore, handler, with Dawn's Melancholy Baby, white and black setter bitch, by Bloomfield Joe-Dawn's Desolation. E. B. Flack, owner; Howard Dell, handler.

Bublitz Lady Remington, white and orange setter bitch, by Peter Watch-Midland Bell. Walter Bublitz, owner and handler, with Sam L's Skygo, white, black and tan setter dog, by Sam L's Skyrocket-Gym's Lady. Sam R. Light, owner; Larry Tuttle, handler.

Hall's Black Rocket, with Montgomery, white, black and tan setter dog, by Sam L's Skyrocket-Ralph's Peerless Starlight. Ralph Thomas, owner; Larry Tuttle, handler.

*(Continued on page 32)*

# Review of the 25 Year State Game Land Purchase Program

(From Page 27)

Line around Primary Refuge No. 4, on State Forest land in Perry County. Photo taken in 1922.

*Analysis of Funds Allocated Periodically*

From December 1, 1919 to May 31, 1927, the average yearly expenditure for management and development of the system of refuges and public hunting grounds and for the purchase of lands was $114,455.40, which came from the general Game Fund. After the special 75c fund came into existence in 1927, no portion of the general Game Fund was allocated for these purposes.

For the 9 year period between 1927 and 1936, based on the number of Resident Hunter's Licenses sold, the 75c fund amounted to $3,588,021.75, averaging $398,669.08 per year, all of which was allocated for acquisition and management of lands. It is estimated that about 60% of this was expended for the acquisition and about 40% for development and management of the system of refuges and public hunting grounds. On that basis, an average of $239,201.45 per year was expended on acquisition between 1927 and 1936, the period of greatest land purchase activities, during which an average of 46,085 acres per year were acquired.

The new policy adopted in 1936 resulted in allocating 60% of the 75c fund to management and 40% for acquisition. For the 5 year period between 1936 and 1941, the 75c fund amounted to $2,330,481.75. However, in 1936 it was decided to deduct from this special fund the pro-rata share of departmental overhead costs, and later deductions were made for certain other charges as to the State Employees Retirement Association, the Game Commission Training School and Field Division offices. These deductions amounted to $142,660.27 from 1936 to 1941, which left $2,197,821.48 for the 5 year period, an average of $439,364.29 per year. On that basis, $175,745.72 from this fund was available for acquisition.

During the last 3 year period, *i.e.*, between 1941 and 1944, the 75c fund amounted to $1,415,349.75. Deductions amounted to $104,184.66, leaving $1,311,165.09, an average of $437,055.03 per year. The allocation for acquisition was reduced to 35% and that for management increased to 65%. On this basis, only about $152,969.26 per year was provided for acquisition activities.

In recent years, revenues derived from the sale of timber and other forest products have also been allocated for management purposes, and those derived from licenses for rights-of-way granted over State Game Lands, and from the sale of certain minerals were allocated for acquisition. These increased by a few thousands of dollars each year the budgets for the Division of Game Land Management and the Division of Lands.

Without taking into consideration the few thousands of dollars of revenue, it will be noted that funds allocated for acquisition activities have been rather systematically reduced from an average of $239,201.45 per year for the 1927-1936 period, to $175,745.72 for the 1936-1941 period, and to $152,969.26 for the 1941-1944 period. These figures do not represent actual expenditures for any one year. They are averages for periods of years.

It should be borne in mind that this money is not used alone for purchasing land, but must also take care of all other functions of the Division of Lands, including arrangements for Auxiliary Refuge Projects, Cooperative Farm-Game Projects, Game Propagation Areas, Special Wildlife Refuge Projects; granting easements of various kinds and disposal of inorganic substances; administration and management of the division, including office rent, office supplies and equipment; title abstracting and conveyancing and other legal matters pertaining to lands purchased and leased; and engineering and mapping activities.

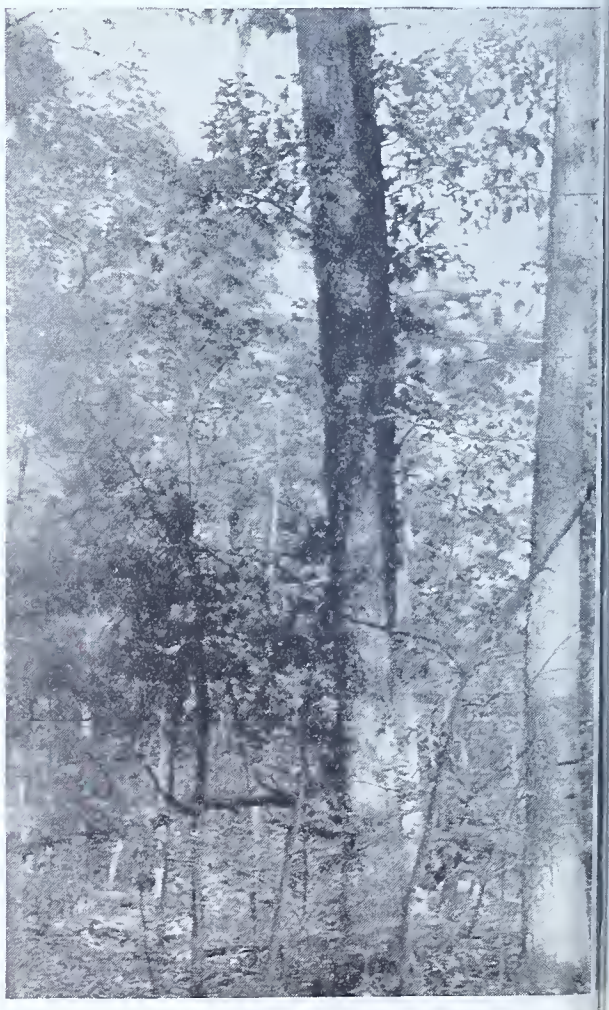
Beginning with the fiscal year 1938-1939, aid came from the Federal Government which was in reality a "life-saver" for the land purchase program. A fairly large proportion of Federal Aid to the States in Wildlife Retoration funds derived from the tax on arms and ammunition has since been allocated for land acquisition projects. Ten such projects were approved between 1939 and 1944 for an aggregate estimated 123,669.2 acres having a total estimated cost of $572,700,31, including acquisition costs as well as for the land. 75% of the cost of such projects is borne by the Federal Government and 25% by the Game Commission. The Federal Government's share of the above was $427,094.66 and the Commission's share $145,605.65. To January 1, 1945, the Commission had received $361,795.89 from the Federal Government as its share of the cost of 150 tracts totalling 88,194.9 acres. The remainder of the money will be received as progress vouchers are submitted to the Federal Agency concerned which is the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior.

*Progress in Acquisition and Leasing 1936 to 1945*

Curtailment of funds allocated to the Division of Lands, beginning in 1936, and the increase in the land leasing program, resulted in reducing the amount of land purchased. During the period of 8 years and 7 months between June 1, 1936 and December 1, 1944, a larger number of tracts were purchased, but the acreage was smaller. The total area acquired was 271,330.4 acres, an average of 31,539 acres per year, as compared to 414,765.8 acres during the previous 9 year period, an average of 46,085 acres per year. The acreage acquired during the last period would have been much less had it not been for Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration funds.

During this last 8 years and 7 months, many of the old Auxliary Refuge Projects were abandoned, and other new ones established. As of December 31, 1944, there were 51 such projects totalling 44,414 acres functioning. 84 Cooperative Farm-Game Projects were arranged for, some of which, however, were soon abandoned and other new ones added. At the end of the period, there were 72 projects, comprising 1913 farms totalling 153,208 acres functioning. At the same time there were 83 Game Propagation Areas containing 25,180 acres and 5 Special Preserves in operation.

It is quite likely that the land purchase program has produced a larger acreage than



Good hardwood timber on State Game Lands No. 39, Venango County. Purchased in 1928.

its original sponsors ever dreamed possible. Even though they envisioned a refuge in every county, it is questionable whether they ever gave thought to the possibility of purchasing State Game Lands in most of the Counties. Nevertheless, during the period of 25 years from 1920 to 1945, by thoughtful planning and consistent efforts to distribute their holdings as widely as possible, the Commissioners have succeeded in acquiring State Game Lands in 63 of the 67 counties of the State. The four missing counties are Philadelphia, Adams, Delaware and Montgomery, although in the latter a Game Farm was purchased some years ago. There is little or no possibility of purchasing any land for game purposes in Philadelphia and Delaware Counties, but something worthwhile may sooner or later be secured in Adams and perhaps Montgomery Counties.

As of December 31, 1944, title for a total of 778,736.8 acres of State Game Lands was vested in the Commonwealth, and about 38,000 acres additional were under contract for purchase, making the grand total 816,736 acres.

The consideration paid for the 778,736.8 acres amounted to $2,954,404.44, an average of $3.79 per acre. Abstracting and conveying titles and boundary line surveys and mapping cost an average of about 90c per acre, indicating that more than $700,000 has been expended for these necessary functions. Other acquisition costs raise the total to almost 3¾ millions of dollars, all of which was provided by sportsmen, not a cent having been supplied from general State revenues. Sportsmen of the State are fully justified in taking great pride in this achievement.

*Game Lands Already Producing Revenues*

The land purchase program has been a direct challenge to "No Trespass" notices seen all too frequently throughout the State. It has created a heritage worth millions of dollars to the sportsmen's fraternity.

There is occasional criticism because most of the State Game Lands are in forest territory. The reason is quite apparent. The value of farm lands good enough to raise agricultural crops makes their purchase for game management purposes economically unsound, and the economy of purchasing the poor marginal or sub-marginal farms is more or less questionable. However, about 20,000 acres of such farms have been acquired even though it is doubtful whether they will produce crops of farm-game in proportion to well cultivated farms. Unless old farms are tilled for agricultural crops, they soon revert to forest type. Their cost ranges between $5.00 and $15.00 per acre, whereas forest lands are acquired at prices averaging about $3.00 per acre.

There is every reason to believe that the purchase of forest lands constitutes a very good investment, not alone for the game crop which can be harvested annually, but also because timber and other wood products will produce appreciable revenues in future years. It is safe to predict that the original investment in most of the forest lands purchased will be returned to the Game Fund in a comparatively few years from revenues which can be expected. Revenues from lumber, ties, mine props, chemical and pulp wood, etc., being cut on State Game Lands even at this early stage amount to a sizeable sum each year, and other revenues are being received from rights-of-way granted, the sale of certain minerals and from other sources.

Such revenues, especially from forest products and rights-of-way have been steadily increasing in recent years. They amounted to $171,342.17 since 1927, of which $130,198.55 resulted from the sale of timber and other wood products and $13,049.25 from rights-of-way. The war, of course, has created a great demand for lumber and prices paid have been abnormally high. Nevertheless, the large revenues from this source now being received indicate that many millions of feet of ready-to-cut timber are available on State Game Lands and are already proving a good investment. It is estimated that for this year alone timber sales will amount to at least $50,000.00.

# A Day to Remember

(From Page 9)

was harder to clean than a rabbit. A welcome series of shouts in the distance hailed me for my whereabouts. Gene's and Jack's shouts and my excited directions resounded through the woods. Excitedly, as they tramped into view, I told them of my success. They were tickled pink over my first deer and slapped me on the back 'til my boot laces came open.

Jack told of seeing a herd of eight galloping past his watch and how he let loose his barrage. He knocked one down by nicking its front leg but the animal recovered and all went off into the woods like greased lightning. One of them ran the wrong way and luckily I bagged him.

The veterans made quick work of cleaning my trophy with a full course of instructions for a beginner's benefit. Jack looped the doe's forelegs to her neck with my washline and she was ready for dragging in the snow.

Gene and Jack told me to back track to the car and they set out to see if they could get another crack at the deer Jack had nicked.

It wasn't very hard pulling my doe down the mountainside. In fact two-thirds of the time she was pulling me down through a cascade of snow from low hanging pine branches.

At the forked ravine I stopped to chat with the two hunters at their camp fire. We joked and chatted about different tall tales for a few minutes and then I started to back track up the sloping mountainside. It took me two and a half hours to drag my doe up the two mile obstacle course. Over fallen trees, around rocks through small streams and I finally reached the car, well spent.

The caretaker of the gas well greeted me and had me tell my whole story to him from the comfort of an old easy chair before his pot bellied stove.

He followed my narration with a twinkle in his eye and nodded his knowledge of the location of the three forked ravine. The shooting incident was relieved with much fervor and realistic "bangs" that made him chuckle.

"My golly boy," he exclaimed, "that rock is only 100 yards from a well travelled road. "How come you drug that deer for hours through that tangle?" Could have drove right up and loaded it."

**"I wonder if they need any instructors?"**

A thought flashed through my mind; that whining noise? Well I'll be, I thought it was a bear and here it was a car trying to make a slippery grade. We both had a good laugh but his was more hearty; mine had a slight hollow ring.

After toasting myself thoroughly, the old timer helped me load my deer on the too streamlined fender and lashed it down as securely as possible.

About two-thirty it started to cloud again and in a short while sleet began to fall. As time dragged by my anxiety over Jack and Gene's whereabouts increased.

It was well into twilight when they came out of the sleet lashed woods, empty handed. They were plastered with ice and their guns were solid icicles. The two frustrated nimrods thawed out around the cherry red stove and told of the merry chase the deer had led them through swamps and tall timber.

As the two nimrods thawed out their sullen mood disappeared and we had a merry time laughing and kidding about the day's haps and mishaps. One deer in the gang usually peps up the whole camp and before long the two sort of felt like it had been a swell day.

Our gang left the caretaker and pot bellied stove with a great deal of reluctance. The roads back to Pittsburgh were in good shape and well cindered.

As an ending to my reminiscence I wish to state that the deceased deer had only began to travel after Rigor Mortis. In natural life his journeys were short compared to the ride I took him. I carted the doe from one end of the county to the other showing it to relatives and friends. In fact it would have traveled much farther had not Gene, Jack, my Dad and several drooling relatives talked me into butchering it before the meat spoiled.

## NATIONAL GROUSE CHAMPIONSHIP

*(From page 29)*

Hall's Nurocket, white, black and tan setter dog, by Sam L's Skyrocket-Gymbob's Peggy. A. A. Hall, owner; Gene Galloway, handler, with Nomad's Lucky Pal, white black and tan setter dog, by Equity-Nomad. Dewey G. Hutchinson, owner and handler.

Spunky Creek Pride, white and liver pointer bitch, by Dandy Dick Willing-Spunky Creek Ella. C. Newton, owner; Mike Seminatore, handler, with Kitty's Major White, white and black setter dog, by Lehigh Captain-Kitty B. Gay. J. C. Williams, owner and handler.

Dotty Rodfield, white and chestnut setter bitch, by Ghost's Rodfield's Lad-Bonnee Foi, F. G. Kerry, owner; Dr. C. K. Stroup, handler, with Communique, white and black setter dog, by Little Jim-Roy Kelly's Midget. J. M. Hadaway, owner; W. P. Smith, handler.

Sam's Wahoo Clipper, white and liver pointer dog, by Sam's Pilot Seaview-Enjoy's Wahoo Clipper. Louis F. Compau, owner and handler, with Colonial Jake, white and liver pointer dog by Lexington Jake-Colonial Lady M. Dr. J. W. Meachen, owner; Mike Seminatore, handler.

Sam L's Skybuster, white and black setter dog, by Sam L's Skyrocket-Ralph's Peerless Starlight. Sam R. Light, owner; Larry Tuttle, handler, with Caviar, white and liver pointer dog by Wautauga Joe-Gi Gi. J. S. Applegate and C. R. Barton, owners; J. S. Applegate, handler.

Sam L's Fiora, white and black setter bitch, by Gym-Vogan's Oncahye. Sam R. Light, owner; Larry Tuttle, handler. A bye.

*Two Hour Finals*

Sam L's Fiora with Spunky Creek Pride. Chief General with Hall's Black Rocket.

*Third Series*

Chief General—a bye.

*Winner*

Winner — HALLS's BLACK ROCKET, 316007, setter dog, by Sam L's Skyrocket-Gay Sandra. A. A. Hall, owner; Gene Galloway, handler.

---

The Greater Ferndale Sportsmen's Association of Johnstown is making hay while the sun shines. Organized in 1940 with 127 members, the club jumped to 505 in 1944 and has been taking more than 100 new members in each month. It hopes to hit the 1400 mark by the close of this year. The association bases its success on the acquisition of a farm last August to which it expects to add from time to time, and later build a clubhouse, trap and skeet layouts, rifle ranges and picnic grounds. It recently purchased 1000 black walnut and 1000 pines for improving wildlife food and cover.

The association sends the GAME NEWS to each of its members in the armed services every month and says it receives many letters from boys all over the world expressing their enjoyment of the publication.

More power to you Ferndale and may your members multiply!

**Dr. S. C. Davenport, Rochester, Pa., and 12-year-old son, Richard, with the furs they trapped during the past winter. This was the first year Dr. Davenport and his son ever trapped.**

**These are the expressions of a deer hunting club the night after killing their sixth buck.**

"Game Protector George Bretz, Shippensburg, told me the following. It seems that some place on the Letterkenny Depot there is a small patch of cover on a sunny bank. This spot was swept clear of snow, and some corn was scattered on the ground for ringnecks. The next day there were six or eight cock birds under this cover, and *five* hawks were sitting in nearby trees watching the ringnecks. George did not say what kind of hawks they were, but I presume they were Redtails, as this species is the most numerous on the Depot.

"I saw a rather unusual thing near Shippensburg Thursday afternoon. I was driving past the municipal dump, when I saw a large number of crows. I thought I might stop and shoot a couple with the Hornet. Just as I stopped the car I saw a hawk drop from a tree and pick up something in its talons from the edge of the dump. The hawk flew a short distance with its load and alighted along a fence row. It proved to be a Red shouldered hawk, and its chosen meal was a piece of beef about three inches square which had been thrown onto the dump. Natural food must be getting scarce, when hawks have to go to the dumps and feed with the crows and starlings.

"I have received reports of a hawk visiting McConnellsburg and harassing the starlings about town. I believe this is a Cooper's hawk, driven by hunger into rather unusual surroundings. If this hawk would confide his activities to starlings I would welcome his visits. However, I am afraid he will get into a small covey of quail that is being fed on the outskirts of the village. If, as and when he does this he will be 'personna non grata' with me.

"I have an idea that the deep snow is responsible for the behavior of these hawks. I think that mice probably work under the snow, and that the hawks can't get them. For this reason, food is sought elsewhere."
—C. R. Studholme, McConnellsburg.

---

Australian rabbits, long a destructive pest, are now heavy contributors to the country's food supply.

# PICTORIAL

H. C. Romberger, Klingerstown, Pa., with an d red fox he shot on November 24, 1944 at rban, Pa.

Richard Zeiders, Harrisburg, R. D. No. 1, solved the ammunition problem by killing rats with his bow and arrow.

Donald C. Graybill, New Providence, with tenth deer in 14 years of hunting—a nice 8-point killed in 1944.

Photo by Tony DeMore

J. R. Stravson, caretaker of a camp in Clear-ld County with "Billy."

Ross G. Zimmerman, Harrisburg, with 115-pound, 4-pointer killed in Juniata County last season. The lad is only 13 years old. His Dad's in the Navy.

Successful bear hunters. Left to right: Henry Allenheim, Gerald Conklin and W. R. Farabaugh, all of Lake Ariel, Pa. Conklin bagged bruin.

Fourteen year old Leslie E. Stilwell, Roulette, ıth bear bagged in McKean County last sea-n the first day.

Alice and Clara Havenstein "riding" a 7-point buck bagged in Wayne County last season by their Dad, Francis Havenstein, of Waymart.

An 8-point, 158 pounder bagged in Lycoming County by Geo. Moul, York, on December 1, 1944. It had a 20-inch spread and was 5 inches at beam.

# BUY MORE BONDS

AND

# BACK THE ATTACK

# PENNSYLVANIA Game News

June 1945 Ten Cents

# PENNSYLVANIA GAME NEWS

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION, HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

EDWARD MARTIN, GOVERNOR

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

ROSS L. LEFFLER, *President* ..... Pittsburgh
ROBERT LAMBERTON, *Vice-President* ..... Franklin
COL. NICHOLAS BIDDLE ..... Bethayres
G. I. PHILLIPS ..... Alexandria
HAROLD MOLTZ ..... Williamsport
DR. H. E. KILGUS ..... Brockway
JOHN C. HERMAN ..... Dauphin
DR. CARL B. ROSENKRANS ..... East Stroudsburg

Administrative Office

SETH GORDON ..... *Executive Director*
R. A. MCCACHRAN ..... *Assistant Director*

DIVISION OF LANDS

W. Gard. Conklin ..... *Chief*

DIVISION OF ACCOUNTING & BUDGET

N. E. Slaybaugh ..... *Comptroller*

DIVISION OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

Leo A. Luttringer, Jr. ..... *Chief*
*Editor,* PENNSYLVANIA GAME NEWS

TRAINING

W. M. Cramer ..... *Supt. Training School*

Bureau of Field Operations

DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

W. C. Shaffer ..... *Chief*

DIVISION OF LAND MANAGEMENT

James N. Morton ..... *Chief*

DIVISION OF RESEARCH
(Vacancy)

PROPAGATION & DISTRIBUTION

Earl S. Greenwood ..... *Acting*

FIELD DIVISION SUPERVISORS

DIVISION "A"—M. J. Golden, 602 Penn Ave., West Reading, Pa.
Berks, Bucks, Chester, Dauphin, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, York.

DIVISION "B"—Jay C. Gilford, Wyoming Ave. and Welles St., Forty Fort, Pa.
Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming.

DIVISION "C"—Thomas F. Bell, 352 E. 3rd St., Williamsport, Pa.
Bradford, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga, Union.

DIVISION "D"—William J. Davis, 327 Penn St., Huntingdon, Pa.
Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry.

DIVISION "E"—M. E. Sherman, 1 E. Du Bois Ave., Du Bois, Pa.
Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, Potter.

DIVISION "F"—Hayes T. Englert, 14 W. 1st St., 2d Floor, S. S. Oil City, Pa.
Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, Warren.

DIVISION "G"—Rollin Heffelfinger, 405 Main Street, 2d Floor, McClellan Bldg., Irwin, Pa.
Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, Westmoreland.

## HOW TO SUBSCRIBE

RATES—$0.50 per year to residents of Pennsylvania, regardless of address. $1.00 per year for Non-Residents of Pennsylvania. (Out-of-State, District of Columbia, Canadian or Foreign.) Club rates are available to organizations presenting 10 or more subscriptions in a single order. Remittances by check or money order to be made payable to the Department of Revenue, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. CASH FORWARDED AT SENDER'S RISK. STAMPS NOT ACCEPTED. Your local Game Protector, County Treasurer or other Hunting License Issuing Agent will take your subscription; or you may forward it direct to the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.

Please report all changes of address promptly, sending both your old and new addresses.

Please address *all* communications to the Editorial Office.

Publication office, Cameron and Kelker Sts., Harrisburg, Pa.

Executive and editorial office, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.

Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, under Act of March 3, 1879.

Permission to reprint will be granted provided proper credit is given.

Mailed in conformity with P.O.D. Order No. 19687.

Vol. XVI No. 3

# EDITORIAL

June, 1945

## IN THIS ISSUE

★

★

**The Future of Pen-Reared Quail in Post-War Restocking Programs**
By Ralph B. Nestler
and
Allan T. Studholme

★

**Take It Easy, Hunter**
By Jacob Bates Abbott

★

**Transactions of Commission Meeting May 2, 1945**

★

**Even Poisonous Snakes Have Enemies**
By A. Pierce Artran

★

**The Use and Care of Binoculars**
By E. Reichert

★

**An Unforgettable Duck Hunt**
By Ralph Sides

★

**Highlights of Proposed Federal Legislation**

★

**Cover**
**Pileated Woodpecker and Raccoon**
By Jacob Bates Abbott

★

## LONG-TERM PLANNING

The good ship Conservation has been trimmed, her machinery has been oiled, weak parts have been replaced, and new courses as needed have been charted for a long voyage. She awaits only the opportune time to launch on a new and bigger venture.

The war, which made it necessary for the Commission to lay aside some of its normal functions, gave it a breathing period during which it gained new strength and formulated new plans.

Almost two years ago the Pennsylvania Game Commission began preparing its organization and its programs for a long-term, intensified wildlife management job. Plans unheard of 10 or 15 years ago have now been completed, and are ready to become operative—some now, some in the post-war era, but all designed to endure over a long period of time.

These plans were not made overnight. They were not made by one person, or by a selected few people. Every field and office employee of the Commission, regardless of position, was requested to make suggestions for the improvement of the operations of the various functions of the Game Commission. Most of these people responded to the request, and many suggestions were received covering every one of the Commission's activities—Land Management, Land Acquisition, Law Enforcement, Propagation and Distribution, Research, Training, and Public Information. The original suggestions were submitted to the Commission for study. Later they were compiled according to subjects and the compilations submitted to the Commissioners for their further consideration.

Standing committees on Research and Planning, Propagation, and Predator Control were appointed. Authorities of state-wide repute on the subjects, not connected with the Commission, were invited to sit in as members of the committees, to attend meetings and to express their opinions and offer suggestions.

After the consolidated recommendations had been acted upon by the Commission, they were finally moulded into complete plans of operation for each major function of the department. These plans will be published in Game News. The first, containing recommendations concerning land management, will appear in the July issue. Each plan, as it is published, will be prefaced by an explanation of its purpose and operation, and it is hoped every reader will study them diligently so he will be familiar with the general system under which the Commonwealth's wildlife program will be promoted in the future. Changing conditions may require changes in policy and procedure, but they will probably be only of a minor nature and will not affect the general set-up or purpose of the program.

Yes, the temporary slow-down due to the handicaps of war has been a good time to make intensive studies of anticipated future needs. Now the good ship *Conservation* is rigged and ready to go. If you cooperate in its launching there is every reason to believe it will have a most successful voyage, foul weather or fair.

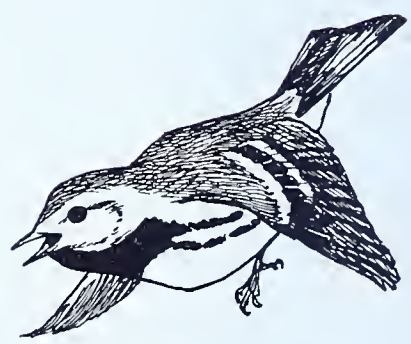
# WELL, WHAT'S WRONG?

(See Answers on Page 22)

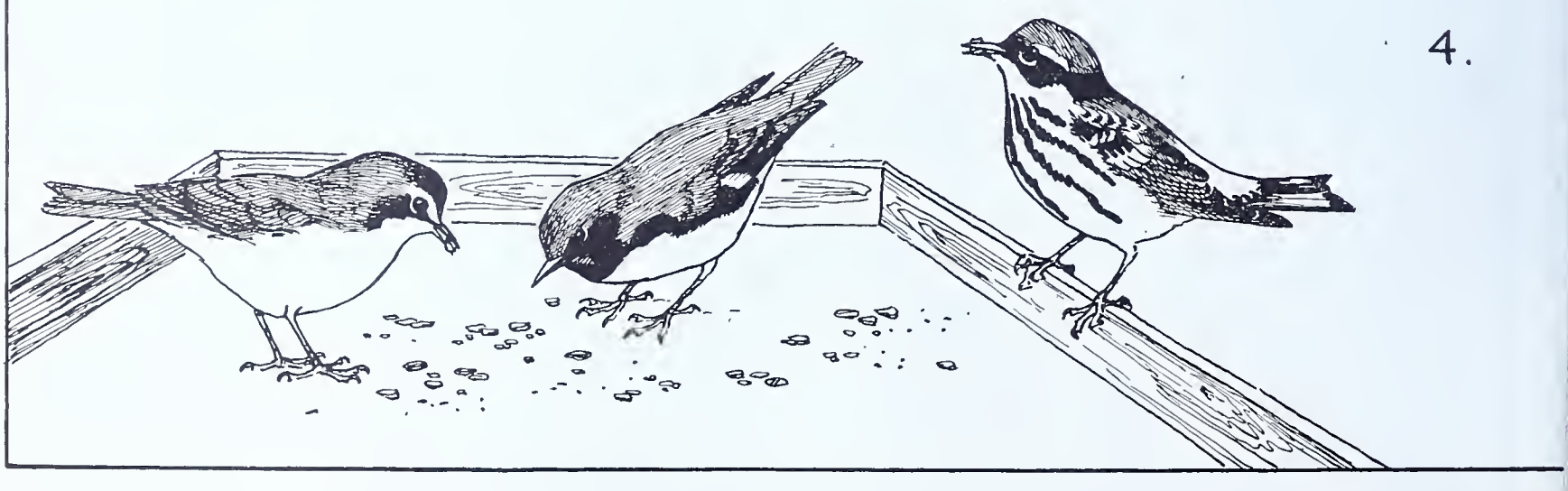
1.

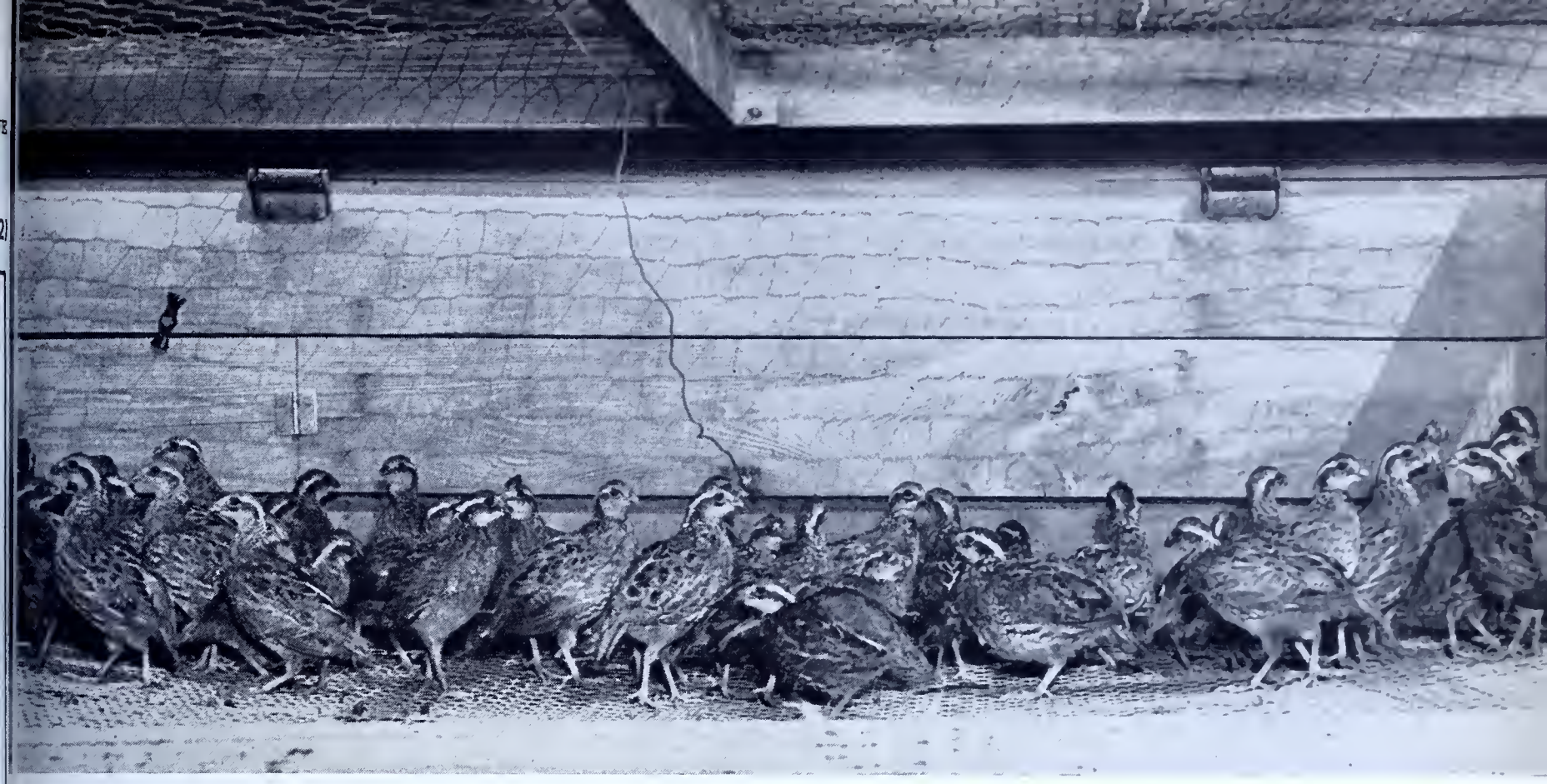
2.

3.



4.





A nice group of young farm-raised quail.

# THE FUTURE OF PEN-REARED QUAIL IN POST-WAR RESTOCKING PROGRAMS

RALPH B. NESTLER* and ALLAN T. STUDHOLME**

*Need of Post-War Planning*

THE upbuilding of America's natural resources following cessation of hostilities should be one of the leading features on the agenda of post-war planners. With the return of our fighting men who will need American fields, forests, and streams to help restore their equilibrium, and with the greatly increased demand on our soil for more food than ever before to supply the needs of war-ravished peoples as well as our own citizens, conservation is vital.

An important, although by comparison a seemingly small phase of this conservation program, is the protection and encouragement of our gallinaceous game birds. The existence of these creatures, like that of other wildlife, has been sorely jeopardized by destructive agricultural practices and indiscriminate hunting. Only prompt action by state conservation agencies, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and private organizations with the interest of America's resources at heart, have averted the extirpation of many popular species, facing the same tragic fate that befell the unfortunate heath hen and passenger pigeon. The good work started must not only be continued, but must be improved and expanded if our natural heritage is to be preserved.

*U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
**Pennsylvania Game Commission.

One of the most popular game birds in this country, especially in the South Atlantic and Gulf States, is the common bobwhite quail *(Colinus virginianus)*. Although this well-known species of the family Perdicidae is more widely distributed than any of the other members, it is becoming more and more restricted in its range. During the past two decades an especial effort has been made by lovers of the bobwhite to restore his race in depleted areas.

*Reestablishing a Quail Population*

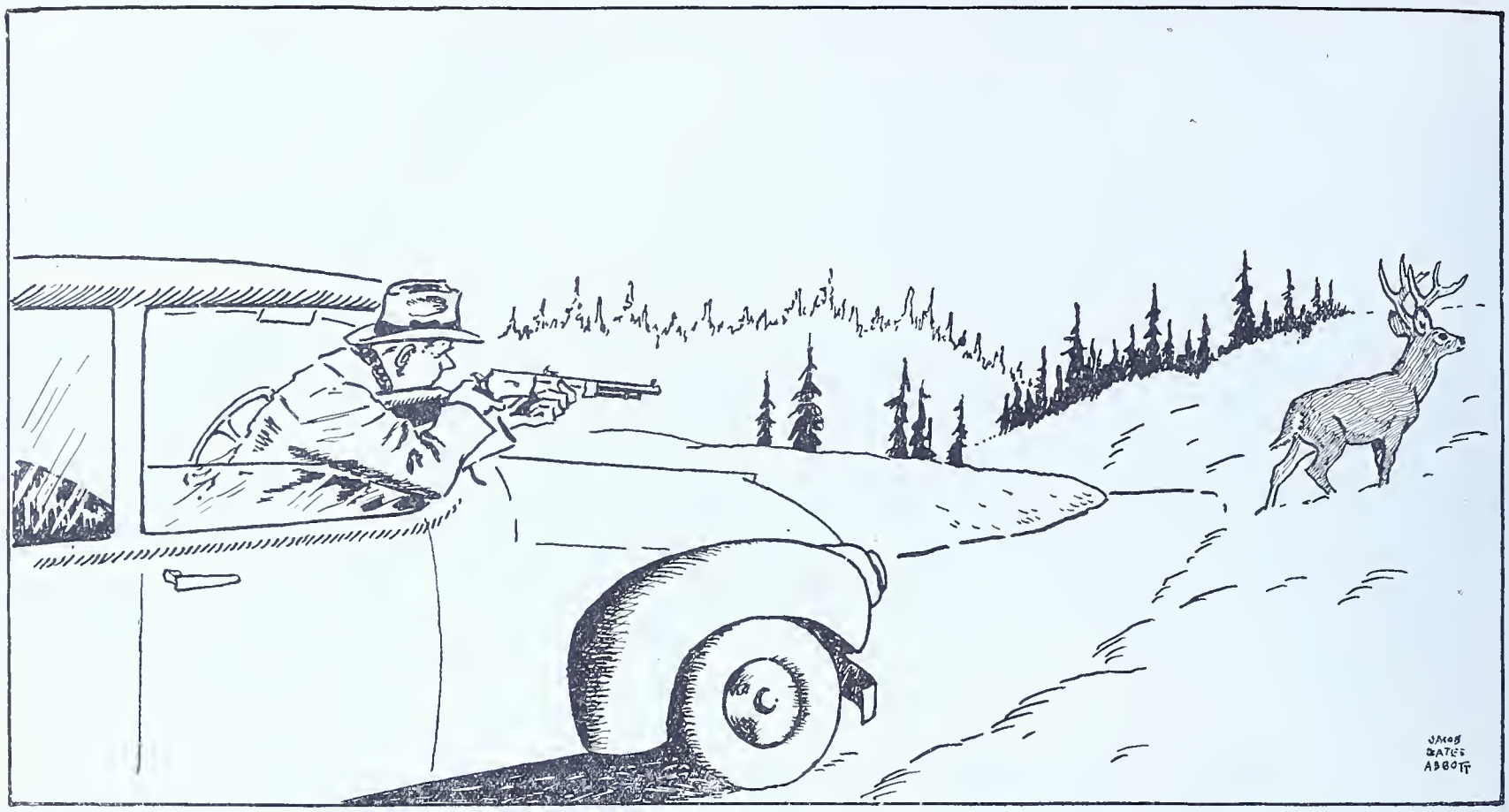
Three methods have been, and still are, employed in the reestablishment of quail populations: (1) assistance to remnants of native stock, through protection and the improvement of habitat, (2) transfer of wild stock from heavily to sparsely populated regions, and (3) liberations of pen-reared stock. At the present time conservationists need to evaluate these three ways carefully in the light of past experience and determine which is the most successful.

First it must be emphasized that whichever of the three methods may be used, adequate food, cover, and nesting sites are essential and protection must be furnished if there is to be success in the establishment of the species. Soil fertility, a factor heretofore given scant attention and yet one related directly to good nutrition of all animal life, is, according to Denny (1944) and Albrecht (1944), of ultra-importance in the survival and increase of wildlife. Unless man exerts an effort to assist a species in its endeavor to become established, his liberations, whether of naturally-reared birds or pen-reared stock, will be an extravagant waste of time, effort, and money.

With the above-mentioned facts taken into consideration, the relative merits of the three methods would depend largely on (1) the purpose, whether for immediate sport or restoration conservation of the species, (2) the rapidity in rise of population desired, and (3) the economy of the endeavor from the standpoints of cost and ultimate returns.

The first method, that of assisting the remnants of indigenous birds, is the slowest but undoubtedly the surest, provided the seed stock has not been depleted to such a degree that recovery is doubtful. If the birds of necessity have to resort to inbreeding, then their chances of a comeback are slim. Results obtained by Nestler and Nelson (1945) from experiments with quail at the Patuxent Research Refuge, Bowie, Maryland, indicate that breeding of closely related birds can have a decidedly deleterious effect on reproduction. Thus hereditary dangers coupled with those of adverse weather, and predation—all may oppose the

*(Continued on Page 26)*




# TAKE IT EASY, HUNTER

DON'T SHOOT AT GAME FROM AN AUTOMOBILE

**By Jacob Bates Abbott**

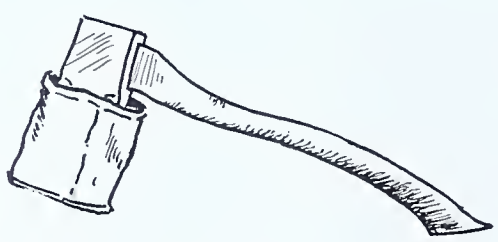
THE 1944 bear and deer seasons were disappointing to many hunters, due chiefly to a heavy fall of snow in most of the best hunting counties. The unexpected blizzard smothered the week's bear hunting and swept through the forest valleys to blanket the opening of deer hunting with two- and three-foot drifts. Many hunters were totally unprepared for this weather. Among many hunting photographs that came into the GAME NEWS office was one showing two young nimrods wallowing through heavy snow in low shoes. This sort of thing points a moral—indicates a trend in present-day hunting—and it is a trend that would cause old-time deer-stalkers to utter wild yapping noises of protest and disgust.

For it is apparent that the goal today of many a would-be deer- or bear-killer is to leave his office, war plant or gas station, jump in his car, with no change of clothing, drive hell-bent to the nearest locality where game is suspected of being, drop a buck twenty yards from the car and have his venison back home in time for dinner. Just an interlude, so to speak, in the daily routine; but one to usher him into the elite company of mighty deer-slayers.

Big game hunting is rarely as easy as that and it is to curtail this hit and run tendency among certain would-be sportsmen that some of the following hints are set down. Few of them are new, but some may have been forgotten in the heat of the mad rush to become a week-end bear-killer.

When you go into the woods, BE PREPARED—prepared for cold, snow, rain, for the possibility of losing contact with your provisions, camp and friends, for the possible urgent necessity for emergency heat, dry clothing and medicine. And by medicine I do not mean whiskey. The last thing needed on a hunting trip is booze—in spite of wild howls to the contrary. Because it produces carelessness, it is the chief cause of shooting accidents. Leave it at home—or in the State Store. Time enough to celebrate when you present the little woman with a couple of haunches of venison or a bear rug.

Preparation and essential equipment have made the United States Army and Navy the most efficient fighting machines in the world. This does not mean that you need a reconnaissance car or an escort carrier full of duffle to go deer hunting. But, plan out your trip, make a list of essentials, and act accordingly in assembling your gear to take into the woods. You can count on cold days and nights in late fall and early winter in Pennsylvania. Let's start from here. Wear long woolen underwear, light weight or heavy, depending on your ticklish proclivities. Heavy woolen socks are essential and you can give added warmth to your feet by wearing a pair of silk socks under the wool.



**Keep your axe sheathed when not in use.**

Satisfy your own taste as to footgear, but be sure they are roomy enough to accommodate your feet plus a couple of pairs of heavy socks. For general use in snow, slush, mud and occasional water I like leather-topped rubbers about 12 inches high. I keep them well greased with "Shulife," which waterproofs and softens them. L. L. Bean, of Freeport, Maine, is the place to get boots and just about every other necessity for comfort and efficiency in the wilds. Take along enough socks so that you can change them often—four or five pairs—and, if humanly possible, CHANGE them every night after a day's tramp. Even if you have not a perfectly clean pair to put on, just the change is mighty good for those pedal extremities. If your wool socks get soaked (or after washing them) don't wring them out, but hang them up wet to dry; it will prevent their shrinking. If your boots are wet through take them off and dry them, bottoms up, over two sticks driven into the ground, near, BUT NOT TOO NEAR, your camp fire. Then heat a handful of pebbles, marble-size or larger, in a frying pan. Pour these into one of the boots and shake them around for awhile. Reheat stones and repeat the process with boot No. 2. Whatever your method for dehydrating your foot-gear, DON'T LEAVE THEM TOO NEAR THE FIRE. Many a good pair of boots has been ruined, hardened and cracked, by too close application of heat.

Let your fancy run riot as to color and pattern of your wool shirts—but it pays to buy good ones. Get the kind that can trace their ancestry to some well-insulated sheep rather than to a cotton plant. On top of

t t your jacket, mackinaw or sheepskin c t—there are hundreds of such garments o the market. For myself I like heavy u dergarments and shirt and a light jacket. T is gives more freedom for my arms and e minates that weighed-down feeling that a heavy coat produces for me. However, s isfy your own taste in this, but don't go i o the wilderness hunting in low shoes. a usiness suit and your best winter over- c t.

f you have a shack, cabin, hunting-lodge o are going to board at some tavern in t woods, skip the following—unless you t nk you might get lost. Homes from h ne: the simplest shelter to construct is n de by leaning 3 or 4 poles against a fallen l . Spread your rubber blanket or tarp o r the poles, put some fir boughs inside a l roll up in your blankets on them. Pick a g that is absolutely flush with the ground o you really will be caught in the draft. T e lean-to makes a fine camp if you're w hout a tent. Drive a couple of notched s lings into the ground 8 or 10 feet apart; l a pole across these. Lean poles or sap- l gs against this at one-foot intervals; roll a og against the bottom of these to secure t m. Lay spruce or hemlock boughs on t s frame-work, lapping or shingling the b nches so that any rain will be shed; close u the sides with more evergreen and, with t camp fire facing the opening, you will h e a snug, warm retreat. Fir, hemlock a l juniper boughs make the best beds be- c se of their thick, flat needles. A bough b l ought to be at least a foot thick and so "p pped" from head to foot that the butts a always underneath.

Y ou can, of course, erect various kinds of s lters with a pup tent, double poncho or t paulin. One-man tents, however, like o e-man tops, can cause complications and i is very easy to become thoroughly w apped up in your work.

W ith help, an "A" tent is, perhaps, the e iest to put up and is certainly comfortable e ough. Leave the big wall-tents and a rquees for the circuses. An excellent a l accurate guide for erecting an "A" tent i the woods is given by Charles Stedman F wks in "Camp Kits and Camp Life." I q te: "In setting up a tent, first cut four p es seventeen feet long and one pole t nty feet long. Then spread the tent out w ere you are to pitch it, and run through t top of it the twenty-foot pole and a p ce of rope fifty feet long. Take two of t seventeen-foot poles and tie them to- g her with twine two feet from the ends, t hold the front of the twenty-foot pole up; t the other two poles in the same way for t back end. Then lift up the twenty-foot p e and the tent by the poles which are t l together, tying the fifty-foot rope to s rt stakes driven into the ground ten f t from the front and back of the tent; t n spread the seventeen-foot poles out a the bottom until the tent just touches t ground, ready to be pegged down. By p ching a tent in this way there is no tent p e at the entrance to stumble against and w en your tent sags, as it will during a r n, you have only to pull in the poles at t bottom to make everything taut again, w ich, if you have tent poles, can only be d e by tightening all the guy ropes. Nails d ven into these poles make convenient p ces to hang small game on.

Now that the tent is up, the first thing to do is to level off the hummocks inside, and get your personal luggage into shape. First drive a crotched stick into each corner of the tent to put poles on along the two side walls, so that you will have a place to hang the odds and ends on. Under these poles drive some forked sticks to lay your rifle and shot-gun in. At the two back corners of the tent lean two poles against the ridge pole to hang your clothes on, first driving in some nails a foot apart . . ."

It you are a bit soft and green on wood-chopping, preparing fire-wood make you feel like the young lady in the accompanying illustration; but it MUST be chopped and in the cold, gray dawn you will regard your blisters with satisfaction and, feeling no pain, will bless your foresight as you gaze on the piled-up logs.

While on the subject of chopping, a word about your axe: if it's sharp, as it should be, and is chucked in your car without a sheath among your other duffle, it can and will slice neat holes in many things. Since leather is now scarce a good substitute axe-sheath can be easily made by using one of those tin cans that you are flattening out (I hope) for the war effort. Pick out one whose diameter is just a bit greater than the width of your axe blade and jam the latter into it. Thus rents in shirts, breeches and upholstery will be avoided and much strong language eliminated.

All right, so you started out early with your party after a buck, but, with the passing of a couple of hours you lost touch with the man nearest you and finally you discover that you really are, not only sole alone, but at present quite definitely lost. Although you'll forget them or already HAVE forgotten them, here are a few suggestions: First, keep cool. This you will have no difficulty in doing if you are out in the December woods. If there is snow on the ground, which, under the above conditions is likely, there are a number of things that you can do to regain your bearings. You can back-track on your own foot-prints; this will, at least return you to where you were—and probably show you the way back to camp or to some familiar landmark. If you have a compass remember that snow is thicker, and stays longer, on the north side of trees. A man often gets completely jittery when it dawns upon him that he is really lost and, after plunging along in the direction toward which he thinks camp is, it is most disconcerting to meet his own tracks and to realize that he has been running around in circles. And it is not much consolation to mutter to yourself, "I'm not lost, dammit. I'm here! Camp's lost." Sit down; rest a bit; think over calmly the direction you took when you left camp. Then climb a tree and look over the country for something familiar that you remember near camp. Above all, don't lose your head. Take it easy. Light up a pipe, build a fire, eat some lunch if you've brought any along. Get some wet leaves going in a smudge fire; maybe some of your gang will see it. Get two smudge fires

*(Continued on Page 31)*

**One-man tents can cause complications, and it is very easy to become wrapped up in your work.**

# Transactions of Commission Meeting May 2, 1945

IN the February issue of GAME NEWS the Game Commission for the first time in its history, made public the highlights of its January meeting. The Commission decided that such information would no doubt bring about greater cooperation and understanding between the Department, sportsmen, farmers, and other interested citizens.

The Commission's meeting at Skytop, Monroe County, Pa., on Wednesday, May 2, 1945, began at 2 P.M. with the following members present: Messrs. Ross L. Leffler, Pittsburgh, President; R. Lamberton, Franklin, Vice-President; G. I. Phillips, Alexandria; Harold Moltz, Williamsport; Dr. H. E. Kilgus, Brockway; John C. Herman, Dauphin; and Dr. Carl B. Rosenkrans, East Stroudsburg. Colonel Nicholas Biddle, Bethayres, was unable to be present due to illness.

Seth Gordon, the Executive Director, R. A. McCachran, Assistant Executive Director, and N. E. Slaybaugh, Comptroller also were present.

The President called attention to the fact that Commissioners Biddle and Moltz had recently been reappointed for eight year terms, expiring the third Tuesday of January, 1953, said appointments having been confirmed by the Senate on March 27, 1945.

Administrative and Future Program Recommendations which had not previously been disposed of were taken up for consideration and acted upon as follows:

*Acquiring Lands*—This program was approved, as submitted, subject to revisions as found desirable. It was decided to confine the purchase of lands in the immediate future to the acquisition of interior holdings, tracts needed to straighten up boundary lines, and to the expansion of small tracts to a suitable size. New units shall not be started unless there is some particularly good reason for so doing.

The cooperative farm-game program is later to be greatly expanded and extended to other sections of the Commonwealth near large centers of population where hunting pressure for farm-game species is heavy and land posting is general.

*Propagation and Distribution*—Action was deferred on this subject until the next meeting pending further study of the recommendations submitted.

*Research*—This program was approved in principle as a future policy with the understanding that individual phases be submitted for final consideration at the appropriate time. In the recent past the over-all research program included studies made on the bounty problem, game species, physiology, winter feeding, trapping, banding and tagging, the deer problem, controlled shooting areas, sexing technique for day-old ringneck pheasants, rabbit management and life history, status and management of the wild turkey, effects of climatic condition upon game species, avian predators diet analysis, habitat preference and game propagation. Short term studies have dealt with current wildlife problems in crop damage, food habits, ecology, life history, disease, parasites, range carrying capacity, distribution, abundance and analysis of hunters license data. All of these projects except one have been suspended for the duration.

*Training*—The need for expanded training having been agreed upon, the Commission decided to immediately release the Superintendent of the training program from all other duties so he can devote his entire time to this work, a large share of which will consist of keeping the field employees fully informed through conferences, and of developing proposed courses for the next training school at the conclusion of the war.

*Research and Planning*—The Commission heard an interesting report of a conference held with the U. S. Soil Conservation Service for the purpose of determining a better approach to the wildlife program on the farms of the Commonwealth. Among other things it was learned that the Soil Conservation Service has employed a psychologist to develop ways and means to make its programs more attractive to landowners.

*Predator Control*—A resolution was adopted placing a $4.00 bounty on the red fox in all counties except Chester and Delaware, wher special legislation restricts the killing of bot red and gray foxes to the protection of per sonal property, from July 16, 1945 to Jul 15, 1946 inclusive; continuing the $4.0 bounty on the gray fox except in Cheste and Delaware Counties; $1.00 bounty on th weasel; $4.00 for adult great horned ow and $2.00 for fledglings that have not left th nest; and $2.00 for adult goshawks and $1.0 for fledglings that have not left the nest.

*Bounty Claims*—An experiment carrie out during the past winter, wherein office set up a schedule of dates and places fo probating bounty claims not having accom plished the desired objectives and being mo expensive than anticipated, it was decide to discontinue the plan and have field off cers carry bounty blanks with them so the may probate claims without cost to trappe whom they meet.

It was agreed to supply official seals with out cost to advantageously located deput Game Protectors who are willing to proba claims without charge. In the past deputi paid for the seals and were privileged charge the customary probating fee whe they saw fit to do so.

*Sale of Hides*—The Commission was in formed that following its action at the la meeting the desirability of offering to po hides of animals killed by field officers ar selling them at Harrisburg had been ful explored, but that it was learned the fie officers prefer to handle their own such sal locally.

*Bounty to Officers*—Under new legislati (Act 149) amending Section 1101 of Gar Law, the Commission is required to p bounty to foresters, forest rangers, fish war ens, game protectors and other public er ployees to encourage them to destroy pred tors, and to compensate them for servic beyond their regular call of duty, such pa ments to be made in the same manner a under like conditions as bounties are pa to other citizens.

*Propagation*—For the purpose of keepi the breeding stock at the new wild turk farm in Lycoming County separate from t propagation work, to guard against disea the Commission approved a lease for a pro erty above Barbour's consisting of a hou and barn and approximately 45 acres, whi premises will also become the residence the superintendent's principal assistant.

*Promotion*—Due to the fact that Allan Studholme, Acting Chief of the Division Propagation and research, is terminating service with the Commission on May 26 become a regional inspector for the U. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Commiss designated Earl S. Greenwood, Superinte ent of Loyalsock Game Farm, as Act Chief of Propagation and Distribution u someone is selected to serve permanen He will be assisted by Mr. Ralph Britt was recently appointed as an Administrat Assistant. Mr. Greenwood is qualified handle his new assignment both from administrative as well as a practical sta point. He began his service with the Co mission in 1933, having previously been in charge of ringneck pheasant propaga under the auspices of Lycoming Cou Sportsmen's groups. In his new capacity

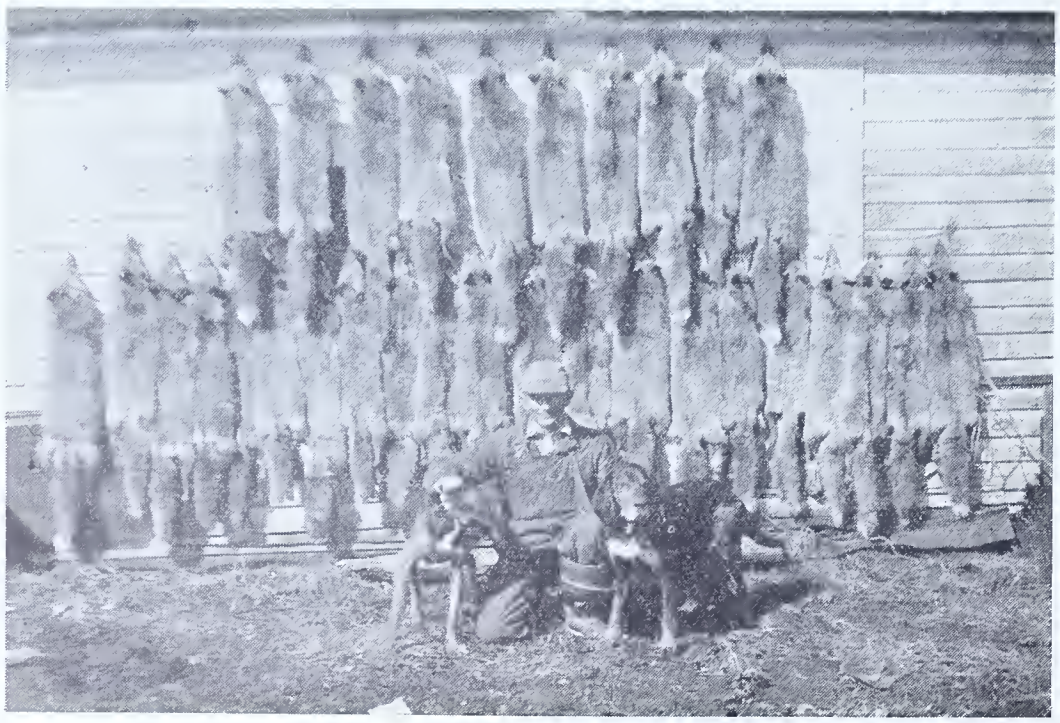


Photo by Lewis Feiss
Samuel D. Miller, North East., Pa., with foxes killed in Erie County last Fall.

eenwood will continue to direct the work the Loyalsock Farm where he has had usual success in rearing ringnecks.

To fill a vacancy created through the resigtion of Kenneth Brenneman, Superintennt of the Jordan Game Farm, the Comssion assigned Game Protector Izaac umgardner to the position temporarily th the understanding that if he likes the ork he will be reclassified to the position Superintendent on September 1. Mr. umgardner previously had game rearing perience at the Fisher State Game Farm.

*Day-Old Chicks*—It was reported that ornized sportsmen were responding splenily to the Commission's suggestion that ey arrange to raise as many day-old chicks possible to help increase the number of easants released. Indications are the disbution of such chicks will be the largest er undertaken. The only requirement i at recipients of the chicks shall raise them six weeks, preferably eight or ten, and at they be released in accordance with e Commission's regular stocking policies.

*Game Bird Purchases*—Orders for 8,050 easants for fall delivery by Pennsylvania eeders, 7,850 for Spring 1946 delivery by th State and out-of-State breeders, and 50 bobwhite quail for Spring 1946 dery were approved.

*Game Farm Production*—With the birds rchased and prospective production on e State Game Farms, comparative ringck pheasant and quail stocking programs, ithout including birds raised from chicks cooperating sportsmen's groups and farmme cooperators, will be as follows:

After discussing the matter fully the Commission agreed that in the northern half of the State about two-thirds of the annual stocking quota of ringnecks shall be released in the Fall and one-third held over for Spring, whereas in the southern half all birds shall be held for Spring distribution unless it becomes necessary to release some hens prior to the hunting season to relieve crowded conditions at the Game Farms.

To further stimulate interest among farmgame project cooperators, the Commission agreed to pay 50c per pheasant for birds raised from eggs and 40c per pheasant for birds raised from day-old chicks, both to a minimum of six weeks, and that if the cooperators retain the birds until they are ten weeks old, or older, they shall be paid 90c per bird.

*Sportmen's Pens*—The possible utilization of idle sportsmen's holding pens to relieve crowded conditions at the game farms by leasing them and shipping birds at the end of six weeks to the local game protector was discussed and approved. If it becomes necessary to resort to this arrangement due to inability to secure wire and labor to replace worn out pens at the game farms the Commission will lease the pens available, supply feed, and have a regular employee care for the birds, which will subsequently be distributed by the Commission either locally or in nearby districts. The owners of the pens will have no claim to the birds so raised for their own locality.

*Field Trial Groups*—Further reports concerning requests from field trial associations for birds to be used in registered trials, along with additional information concerning current practices in other states, were submitted. A committee was requested to study the matter further and present a definite written proposal with suggested rules and regulations at a later meeting.

*Budget*—Since after June 1 field officers will be responsible for all activities within their assigned districts, salaries and expenses of such officers, as well as Field Division Supervisors, shall be distributed monthly to the proper classification so that at the end of the year it will be possible to set up a more businesslike budget than at present.

The salary and expenses of the Supervisor of Buildings and Purchases, and any clerical help employed incident thereto, shall also be distributed at the end of the year to the operations for which services were rendered.

The total approved budget for the period June 1, 1945 to May 31, 1946, subject to the Governor's approval, amounted to $1,808,330.00 of which over $270,000 is reserve.

The Commission also allocated $149,970.00 additional to its "war-time reserve," started on June 1, 1941, which now totals $1,300,970.00.

*New Legislation*—All legislation affecting the Commission was reviewed and a full interpretation of each bill as finally approved by the General Assembly will be found on page 18.

*Seasons and Bag Limits*—Although the Commission has in several recent years set the seasons and bag limits at its April or May meeting due to printing and other problems, this subject was discussed in a preliminary way and the matter deferred until the next meeting in order to secure more complete information on the prospective game supply, and especially the breeding season.

Notwithstanding the very severe winter, game losses in general were no greater than during previous milder winters, except in western Clinton County where there were too many deer for the forage available. Bobwhite quail suffered the heaviest losses, from 50% to 75% of the breeding stock having been destroyed.

A complete inventory of the wild turkey

*(Continued on page 28)*

*Ringneck Pheasants*

| | Total | | Farm Raised | Purchased |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| all 1944 | 28,334 | 35,934 | 7,114 | 21,200 |
| pring 1945 | 7,600 | | 7,600 | ..... |
| all 1945 | 13,050 | 33,050 | 5,000 | 8,050 |
| pring 1946 | 20,000 | | 12,150 | 7,850 |

*Bobwhite Quail*

| | Total | | Farm Raised | Purchased |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| all 1944 | 12,142 | 15,742 | 9,434 | 2,708 |
| pring 1945 | 3,600 | | 3,600 | ..... |
| all 1945 | 9,000 | 16,700 | 9,000 | ..... |
| pring 1946 | 7,700 | | 4,000 | 3,700 |

Left—Buck in the velvet. Photo by Vernon Smith, of Bradford. Mr. Smith also photographed the young buck in the picture at the right. s animal was found starving by Carl Groll and Shirley West, of Brad ord early in January when they were cutting browse. It could barely e its head and had to be carried to a nearby truck. Later it was taken to town and placed in a garage belonging to Mr. West who subsently brought it around by feeding at first from a bottle and then apples, carrots and other vegetables as it continued to gain strength.. It released in the same area it was found about two months later. Smith says that when the door of the crate was opened the animal hesitated a seconds before stepping out, then it walked slowly toward the woods but stopped and looked directly at its former rescuers, gently raised its d and flag as if to say "Thank you for saving my life," turned quickly and in a few jumps was lost to sight in its woodland home.

# EVEN POISONOUS SNAKES HAVE ENEMIES

## By A. Pierce Artran

### Courtesy Fauna

### ILLUSTRATIONS BY HARRY GROFF

MOST people regard venomous snakes with such fear that it never occurs to them that these reptiles have a host of enemies—animals which seem to recognize the danger of being bitten but attack in spite of it.

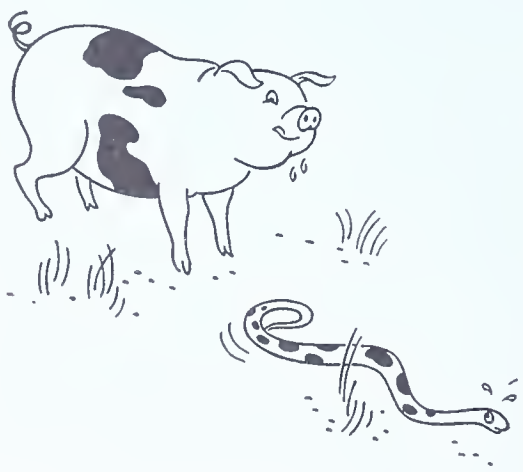
Snake meat is tender and has a delicious flavor, as I can testify. I have eaten it frequently—fried like chicken or frogs' legs—and found it better than either. It is not surprising that many animals relish such a delicacy and, being accustomed to fighting for their food, are willing to take the risk involved in getting a dinner of fresh snake.

Large poisonous serpents, imbued with the wisdom of experience and armed with potent fangs and venom, have comparatively few enemies; their size makes them of little interest to the smaller carnivorous animals. But little snakes, and especially juvenile ones, have innumerable foes.

Young rattlesnakes, cooperheads, moccasins, and coral snakes are killed and eaten by quite a number of birds and mammals; many harmless serpents feed upon them, too. Very young snakes are unable to strike far and are too small to have learned the necessity for exercising extreme caution in a world teeming with dangers.

Birds have various techniques for catching snakes. Ravens, crows, and the road runner or chaparral cock, of the southwestern states and Mexico, dart in from a safe distance and peck at the snake's head until it is dead. Such birds can deliver quite a blow, and a few such raps with their sharp beaks quickly put the snake out of action. Owls and hawks usually kill with the powerful talons of their feet. Their claws are capable of piercing to the vital parts of small animals. In subduing snakes, however, these birds also often resort to the use of their strong beaks.

I know of no naturalist who has observed the snake-killing technique of these raptorial birds, but I think I have found a clue to it. While collecting reptiles in the Marysville Buttes, in central California, I inad-



verently frightened a hawk away from a meal it had just started. It happened to be a non-poisonous gopher snake, but the method by which it was dispatched probably would be the same for all snakes. The talons of one foot had seized the body a few inches back of the neck, and those of the other foot had gone through the head, penetrating the thin skull and entering the brain. The bird apparently had held the snake firmly in this manner while it ate away the flesh on the back of the neck. This made the victim powerless to strike even if the head had been released and the injury to the brain had not incapacitated it.

#### Snakes for Nestlings

Many birds which relish a good worm—even robins—find snakes to their liking. Herons, cranes, and other carnivorous aquatic species eat large quantities of both harmless and poisonous species. In the rookeries where birds of this type breed, they may be seen industriously carrying snakes to their nestlings—snakes caught along streams or in swamps while the birds were engaged in fishing operations. While driving across the Everglades in Florida, on the raised highway known as the Tamiami Trail, I have seen as many as a dozen water birds an hour carrying such prey. The snakes almost always hung limp, showing that they had been killed before being taken aloft. Possibly birds do not distinguish between poisonous and non-poisonous species and attack all serpents as though they were dangerous.

It is hard to believe that downy little chicks can grow up to be fearless snake killers, but chickens and other domestic poultry seem to enjoy eating young snakes as much as do the wild birds. Colonel M. L. Crimmins has told me about a female rattlesnake, kept in a cage in his backyard in San Antonio, Texas, which gave birth to a litter of young during the night. The babies crawled through the meshes of the chicken wire screening the front of the cage, and the next morning the Colonel looked out the window from his breakfast table to see his hens industriously killing and feasting on the newborn baby rattlers.

Turkey raisers often report finding their birds eating snakes. A turkey ranch established a few years ago in the pra region of southeastern Colorado—in an a noted for its great number of prairie rat snakes—and within a year the large fl of turkeys had so reduced the rattler po lation that the ranch owners rarely saw

Both wild and domesticated swine especially fond of reptile meat, if one r judge by the way they fight over it. Kill and eating a snake seems to be a high li in the otherwise monotonous diet of th animals. The hog's method of attack is rush in, grab the snake near the middle the body, and shake it violently. The h is whipped about so rapidly that it is d cult for a poisonous kind to strike. Bu is by no means impossible; hogs freque are bitten in these forays.

Such bites seldom cause any injury, h ever, for under its thick, tough skin hog has a layer of fat covering almost entire body. The fat is so oily that venom, which is a water solution, ma little progress, and the layer so poorly s plied with blood and lymph vessels that venom is absorbed into the general circu tion slowly and causes little harm. If hog is bitten in a part of the body wh there is little fat, it suffers from ven poisoning in the same way as any o animal, although swine rarely die as a sult of snake bite.

Deer and antelope are noted enemies poisonous snakes and other animals wh they fear may molest them or their you These large mammals are strictly vegetar however, and do not eat anything they kill. Does, with fawns to protect, s especially prone to attack snakes. T method is to leap into the air and c down on the victim with all four sharp h The feet are then driven up and down pistons. The snake has little chance strike the slender, fast-moving legs be it is cut to ribbons.

Several kinds of nonvenomous snakes eat other serpents, even ones of their kind. Some of the most spectacular an battles I ever have witnessed were

*(Continued on Page 29)*

# THE USE AND CARE OF BINOCULARS

**By E. Reichert**

*EDITOR'S NOTE: This article is contributed by E. REICHERT of the MIRAKEL REPAIR CO., of Mount Vernon, New York. We believe it will be of as much interest to the wild-life observers of this State as it was to the fire observers, for whom it was originally prepared at the request of the Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters.*

COMMON complaint of forest fire ob- servers is that objects, which appear ar enough when seen with the naked eye, k blurred when viewed with binoculars. s complaint has been made even when binoculars were in perfect condition.

requently, the difficulty lies in the way user adjusts his glasses. With careful ustment they can be made to "fit the s" and give clear and restful vision. Be- adjusting a pair of binoculars for the t time, it is desirable to do two things:

. Select a distant printed sign on which focus. Buildings and trees may appear asing to the eye even if they are slightly of focus. There can be no doubt as to ether print is clearly and sharply legible.

. If possible, rest the elbows on some sta- ary object in order that the glasses may held steady. Then adjust them accord- to description "A" if they have a central using wheel, and according to "B" if they e individual eye-cap adjustments.

### Focusing

.. *Binoculars with central focusing wheel.* lose your right eye or, better still, hold ard in front of that side of the binocular, . turn the central focusing wheel until see clearly with your left eye. Then t your left eye, and turn the *right eye-cap* not touch the central focusing wheel), il you see clearly with the right eye. sing one eye puts muscular strain on the er eye, and the closed eye takes time to over from the "squeeze." You should see clearly with each eye, no matter your two eyes may differ. Then bend binocular at the hinge, until the circles seen by both eyes fuse into one. The ocular is now in perfect adjustment for h your eyes, and should give clear and ful vision. Obviously, were both your s exactly the same, you could adjust the ocular by setting the right eye-cap at ro," and simply turning the central fu- ing wheel, since this wheel raises the lge on both sides the same amount. But h many people the two eyes are quite erent, and therefore separate adjustment dvisable.

he above procedure may seem a compli- d and laborious method, but after the t time it is quite simple. You know the rect reading of the right eye-cap for your s. If this is —2, then that is where this should always be set for you on this ticular glass. If the right eye-cap be- nes moved, then you can easily set it back —2 without even looking through the bi- ular. Thereafter you can adjust the glass rectly *for both your eyes,* simply by turn- the central focusing wheel. Remember, vever, that print is always the ideal object which to adjust binoculars. An adjust- nt "more or less correct" is not good enough. Restful vision requires perfect adjustment.

*B. Binoculars with individual eye-cap adjustments.*—Close off the vision on the right side, look through the left side only, and turn that eye-cap until you can see clearly. Do the same on the right side, and bend the hinge to fuse the two images. Take the reading of each eye-cap. If the caps become shifted, you can put them back into correct position without looking through the binocular. It pays to be very accurate the first time; thereafter adjustment is simple.

### Alignment

Some observers complain of headaches after continuous use of binoculars for five minutes or more, although they can see clearly for a minute or two. Such discomfort and headache usually indicate that the binoculars are out of alignment. Instead of the two optical axes being parallel, one side may point slightly higher than the other, hence one side may reveal a somewhat different portion of the scenery than the other.

Unfortunately, binoculars may not be sufficiently out of alignment for the trouble to be obvious. By exerting considerable muscular effort the eyes are often able to force a fusion of the two images. The unnatural strain put upon the eye muscles explains the headaches.

The alignment of a binocular may be roughly checked by eye by the following method, although it often takes a good deal of practice to do this easily:

Adjust the left side of the binocular correctly for your left eye, and the right side for your right eye, *but do not look through both eyes at the same time.* Otherwise, if the glass is out of alignment, you will immediately strain your eyes by trying to force fusion, and this eye strain will unfit you for the following test. After adjusting the binoculars for each eye, open both of them, instantly moving the binocular slowly away until it is three or four inches from your eyes. At this distance your eyes will not be able to force the fusion of the two images.

Be sure to focus the glasses on a straight horizontal line directly before you (not on a line at an angle). If the binoculars are in alignment, the image of the line as seen through the right eye piece will be a continuation of the line as seen through the left eye piece. (See Figure 1). If the binoculars are out of alignment, one of the two lines will appear higher than the other. (See Figure 2).

If you find that your eyes cannot readily perform this test, or if the results seem doubtful, it would then be advisable for you to send in your binocular to have the alignment checked properly. Much eye strain will be avoided if attention is given to this matter of alignment.

Poor alignment is usually the result of shifting of the prisms, caused by violent bumping or jarring of the binoculars. When this happens the glass must be sent in for repair; and it is important that this very difficult work, which requires the utmost accuracy, be performed in the proper manner.

In the customary porro-prism binocular, there are four prisms each moveable in four distinct ways, and the problem is by no means simple. As a matter of fact, for really perfect alignment a special instrument known as a collimator must be used to achieve the required accuracy.

### Tampering

Under no circumstances should anyone but a specialist in binocular repairs attempt to repair a binocular—no matter how highly skilled a mechanic he may be. Not only is the repair work practically certain to prove unsatisfactory, the probability is that actual damage will be done.

Glasses that have been tampered with usually show it very clearly. Sometimes delicate threads are stripped, making replacement of parts necessary. Sometimes parts are broken, for only an expert knows just which parts are removable and in what order they should be removed. Usually lenses or prisms become scratched.

But perhaps the most costly damage is that caused by misplacement of optical parts —lenses and prisms—in attempting to clean them. They are frequently put back incorrectly. When an expert examines a glass in this condition, he knows at once that the parts have been misplaced. But just exactly what is wrong may be very difficult to determine, and may require hours of experimental work. In other words, although it may take only a few minutes to replace parts correctly, the experimental work may be both long and costly.

### Cleaning and Care

The observer who wants his binoculars internally clean can do much by just trying

*(Continued on Page 32)*

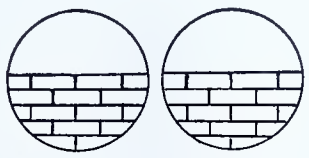


**Fig. 1. In Alignment.**

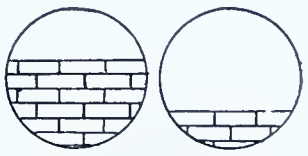


**Fig. 2—Out of Alignment.**

# WITH THOSE IN THE SERVICE

**Sometime ago we had a very interesting little article by Sgt. Ev. Stineman, who used to furnish an occasional column entitled "Canine Corner." Ev was fortunate enough last December 4 to get a 5-day furlough and luckily got a plane from France to within five miles of the Stoke Hill Beagle Pack in England, where Major Craig, Master of Hounds took him in as his house guest and did him the honor of presenting him with Whip and Horn for the duration of his stay. Needless to say Sgt. Stineman made the most of his extremely good fortune. At left is Miss Enid Tozer, the present Kennel Mistress who acted as Whip, and Sgt. Stineman.**

"I haven't heard from anyone from the Game Commission since Christmas and decided the fault is mostly mine.

"We haven't been as isolated here this winter as were the groups in former years, but still mail and news comes and goes very slowly. Just last week a plane landed here, but they brought no mail and their reception was a bit cool. In spite of things like that we are getting along very well in the Arctic. The last letters I received were full of the coming spring, but up here that is just something to think about. We are still having sub-zero temperatures as a regular diet, and the sun is our only index to the coming summer. Already we are getting almost 24 hours of light and it won't be too long until the sun will remain with us for that period.

"I haven't seen any birds except an occasional raven or ptarmigan for two months now. The natives told me that the small birds begin to come north in April, but as yet I haven't been able to find any. Even the ducks have left the vicinity because of the ice and seals are scarce for the same reason. When the ice breaks up the ducks will again be with us in a very short time and many other sea species will accompany them.

"Fishing through the ice is very productive at present, but there is no sport to it. A type of cod is most commonly caught by this means, but an occasional flounder and halibut are also taken. Just tonight I had all the halibut steaks I could eat, and it is really surprising how my appetite has grown since I have been here. I occasionally go out to get fish for ourselves or the dogs, but I will wait until summer and the fly season and have my sport with the trout. When I fish now I am always surrounded by our pack of 13 dogs; each lying around the hole waiting to steal my catch. Occasionally they succeed and then the fur and blood flies until it is devoured.

"I have taken several dog trips lately, and on my last got what I hope will be some excellent pictures of the natives in the Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes. You probably have seen the native sealskin stuff with all the added beadwork to make it pretty. I will admit it is very colorful and one old boy had one gold ear ring that he seemed especially proud of. I took the pictures in color and hope they amount to something. The light conditions here are different than I have ever encountered before and the intense brightness of everything, even on a dull day, makes me wonder. We must always wear dark glasses if out for any period of time.

"There are some things about this land that are truly amazing, and one that especially got me is the fact that mushrooms exist as far north as Thule. Equally amazing is the fact that all are edible and the natives rarely eat them. I can't quite figure this out because they eat everything else. When hunting with the natives one is always in for new surprises. I have seen them eat the fatty lump on the upper bill of a king eider as soon as they retrieved the duck, and the intestines, liver and heart of the ptarmigan are another relished delicacy right after the bird has been shot. Raw seal meat is regularly eaten, and I can't really blame them for that, because the liver is especially good. Seal liver has the reputation for being the finest in the world, even when prepared according to our standards. As far as I can see, raw fish is quite tasteless and just something to eat when you are hungry.

"I still don't have any pictures of the seal hunting. The immediate area is well covered with ice and the natives go to areas with more open water to do the most of their seal hunting. Every three weeks we get a day off by letting the other fellows work double shifts, but in this country that isn't much time for getting around and seeing things. The last I was out with the dogs, two of us made a round trip of thirty miles in six hours with time out for pictures and scouting around before we started ba Our dogs are good, but like all America get too much to eat and are consequently bit on the heavy side. Most native dogs fed once or twice a week and attempt eat each other in between times. They fed daily, however, when they are on go. Most dogs in the States would sta on what these dogs get."—Cpl. John D. Be 8th Weather Sq. APO 859, c/o Postmas New York.

---

"I am now in Okinawa, having lan here on Easter Sunday. We were 42 d at sea having quite a rough trip; althou all went one hundred percent O.K.

"Living and all things in general are v much in the rough as always is the case first. We are at least eating 3 times i day, so one has lots to be thankful for.

"All things here are quite different th those experienced in the past in tropi lands. First, the big change is the clim The temperatures are only in the sixt which normally is not cold, but we do m it. Daytime it is not so bad, but the nig are really chilly and sleeping in those gr big Pup tents does not help matters.

"The inhabitants are of Korean and mi yellow races. Needless to describe th although the looks on their faces are s that I do not know words to explain Their customs are queer to us and most things in general are 20 years behind.

"Definitely I have not seen any cocoa trees as yet but mostly evergreens, wh are a good sight for a change. Wild pige seem quite plentiful. There are wild p here and two very poisonous snakes kno as Habu, whose markings resemble diamond-back snakes. They claim there very good fishing here, although I am doing any. Time hardly permits and I really do not have a desire to fish in the parts."—D. J. Blessing CM 1/c, 58th C B B-5, c/o Fleet P.O., San Francisco, Cali

# Many Clubs to Raise Ringnecks

Applications for over 6,600 eggs and 32,000 day-old chicks have been received from sportsmen's organizations and citizens of the Commonwealth who are interested in aiding with the propagation of pheasants and who have the necessary equipment available. In addition, applications for 10,000 day-old chicks have been received from farm-game cooperators.

Although this program is conducted annually, it is especially important this year because brooding and other operations are handicapped at the State Game Farms due to war conditions. Through this cooperative plan the Commission and the sportsmen will be able to put many more birds into the field for the hunters than ever before.

Although the deadline for receiving applications was May 15, probably some clubs could not file their applications because of waiting for approval at one of their regular meetings. In such instances they may still file their applications, and if the birds are available the Commission will supply them.

The following sportsmen's organizations had indicated their willingness to cooperate in this program as of May 20.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY
Outdoor Life Lodge of Fawn Township, Tarentum, Pa.
Richland Sportsmen's Association, Pittsburgh 13, Pa.

ARMSTRONG COUNTY
NuMine District Sportsmen's Association, NuMine, Pa.
Buffalo Valley Sportsmen's Association, Worthington, Pa.

BEAVER COUNTY
Marion Hill-New Brighton Sportsmen's Club, New Brighton, Pa.

BEDFORD COUNTY
Bedford County Game Protective Assn., Bedford, Pa.
Dunning Cove Sportsmen's Assn., Bedford, Pa.

BLAIR COUNTY
Martinsburg Sportsmen's Association, Martinsburg, Pa.
Smokey Run Rod & Gun Club, Claysburg, Pa.

BRADFORD COUNTY
Sayre Sportsmen's Club, Sayre, Pa.

BUCKS COUNTY
Branch Valley Fish, Game & Forestry Assn., Perkasie, Pa.

CAMBRIA COUNTY
Colver Rod & Gun Club, Colver, Pa.
Dunlo Rod & Gun Club, Lloydell, Pa.
Ebensburg Sportsmen's Association, Ebensburg, Pa.
Hastings Sportsmen's Association, Hastings, Pa.
Imperial Game & Fish Protective Association, Johnstown, Pa.
Krayn Sportsmen's Association, Windber, Pa.
Lloydell Field & Stream, Lloydell, Pa.
South Fork Sportsmen's Association, Summerhill, Pa.
Patton Sportsmen's Association, Patton, Pa.
Portage Sportsmen's Association, Portage, Pa.

CENTRE COUNTY
Hunters' and Anglers' Club, Milesburg, Pa.
Centre County Sportsmen's Association, Bellefonte, Pa.
Moshannon Valley Game Association, Osceola Mills, Pa.

CLARION COUNTY
Red Bank Valley Sportsmen's Association, New Bethlehem, Pa.
Foxburg Rod & Gun Club, Foxburg, Pa.

CLEARFIELD COUNTY
Old Town Sportsmen's Club, Clearfield, Pa.
Susquehanna Valley Rod & Gun Club, Mahaffey, Pa.

CLINTON COUNTY
Clinton County Fish & Game Association, Lock Haven, Pa.
Western Clinton Sportsmen's Association, Renovo, Pa.

COLUMBIA COUNTY
Fishing Creek Sportsmen's Association, Bloomsburg, Pa.

CRAWFORD COUNTY
Cochranton Antlers Club, Cochranton, Pa.
Pymatuning Sportsmen's Club, Linesville, Pa.
Mead Dog Club, Meadville, Pa.
Meadville Branch Sportsmen's Council, Meadville, Pa.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY
West Shore Sportsmen's Association, New Cumberland, Pa.

ELK COUNTY
Garden Hill Rod & Gun Club, Weedville, Pa.

ERIE COUNTY
Erie County Sportsmen's League, Erie, Pa.

FAYETTE COUNTY
Fayette County Fish & Game Association, Connellsville Chapter, Connellsville, Pa.

FRANKLIN COUNTY
Blue Ridge Fish & Game Association, Rouzerville, Pa.
Waynesboro Fish & Game Protective Association, Waynesboro, Pa.
Mt. Alto Fish & Game Protective Association, Mt. Alto, Pa.
South Mountain Fish & Game Protective Assn., Mt. Alto, Pa.

FULTON COUNTY
Fulton County Sportsmen's League, McConnellsburg, Pa.

GREENE COUNTY
Greene County Conservation League, Waynesburg, Pa.

HUNTINGDON COUNTY
Juniata Valley Better Hunting & Fishing Assn., Huntingdon, Pa.
Huntingdon County Game Fish & Forestry Assn., Huntingdon, Pa.

INDIANA COUNTY
Indiana County Fish & Game Association, Indiana, Pa.
Iselin Sportsmen's Association, Iselin, Pa.
Rossiter Sportsmen's Association, Rossiter, Pa.
Twolick Valley Rod & Gun Club, Inc., Clymer, Pa.
Wheatfield Township Sportsmen's Assn., Boltz, Pa.
Young Township Fish & Game Association, Aultman, Pa.

JEFFERSON COUNTY
Brockway Sportsmen Association, Brockway, Pa.

LANCASTER COUNTY
Mill Creek Sportsmen's Association, Bareville, Pa.
Strasburg Sportsmen's Association, Strasburg, Pa.
Milton Grove Sportsmen's Club, Mt. Joy, Pa.

LEHIGH COUNTY
Rural Sportsmen's Association of Upper Macungie Township, Trexlertown, Pa.
Lehigh County Fish & Game Protective Assn., New Tripoli, Pa.

LUZERNE COUNTY
Butler Valley Rod & Gun Club, Drums, Pa.
Trailwood Association, Kingston, Pa.

McKEAN COUNTY
Kane Fish & Game Club, Kane, Pa.
Otto Conservation Association, Duke Center, Pa.
McKean County Sportsmen's Association, Dallas City, Pa.
Rixford Rod & Gun Club, Rixford, Pa.

MIFFLIN COUNTY
Mifflin County Sportsmen's Association, Lewistown, Pa.

MONROE COUNTY
Pocono F.F.A. Chapter, Tannerville, Pa.

MONTOUR COUNTY
Montour County Fish & Game Conservation Club, Danville, Pa.

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
Easton Fish & Game Association, Easton, Pa.
Blue Mt. Rod & Gun Club, Bangor, Pa.
Sky Line Skeet & Trap Club, Easton, Pa.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY
Milton Fish & Game Association, Milton, Pa.
Turbotville Farmers Sportsmen, Turbotville, Pa.
Keystone Fish & Game Association, Shamokin, Pa.

PERRY COUNTY
Marysville Sportsmen's Assn., Marysville, Pa.
Susquehanna Sportsmen's Assn., Liverpool, Pa.

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY
Tuscarora Game Club, Tuscarora, Pa.

SOMERSET COUNTY
Jenner's Rod & Gun Club, Jenners, Pa.
Jerome Sportsmen's Association, Jerome, Pa.
Sipesville Rod & Gun Club, Sipesville, Pa.
Yough Game & Fish Association, Addison, Pa.
Somerset Sportsmen's Association, Somerset, Pa.
Gray Sportsmen's Club, Gray, Pa.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY
Great Bend Rod & Gun Club, Hallstead, Pa.

TIOGA COUNTY
Mansfield Sportsmen's Club, Mansfield, Pa.
Sullivan Rod & Gun Club, Mainesburg, Pa.

VENANGO COUNTY
Emlenton Rod & Gun Club, Emlenton, Pa.

WASHINGTON COUNTY
Cherry Valley Sportsmen's Association, Burgettstown, Pa.
Muse Sportsmen's Club, Muse, Pa.
Westland Sportsmen's Club, Westland, Pa.

YORK COUNTY
Glen Rock Fish & Game Association, Glen Rock, Pa.
Izaak Walton League, Ch. 7, York, Pa.

---

An ostrich egg may weigh four pounds.

* * * * *

The red deer can clear a seven foot fence, and a twenty-foot chasm.

* * * * *

Two collared peccaries in the Philadelphia zoo learned to close and open the door to their house in cold weather; peccaries are New World tropical wild pigs.

PENNSYLVANIA GAME NEWS
Pennsylvania Game Commission
Harrisburg, Pa.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: 50c per year to Residents of Pennsylvania, regardless of address—$1.00 per year for all others
NOTE: WILDLIFE BULLETIN with each subscription for two or more years.

Enclosed find {check / money order} for $..... for which enter my subscription to the PENNSYLVANIA GAME NEWS for ..... years.

DO NOT SEND STAMPS

Name .....
(Print plainly)

Address .....

City ..... State .....

NOTE: Make all remittances payable to the COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPT. OF REVENUE and forward directly to the Editorial Office of the "GAME NEWS."

# AN UNFORGETTABLE DUCK HUNT

## By Ralph Sides

A LASHING Northeaster and heavy rains was the answer to a duck hunter's prayer last Friday, so when I met people who commented wryly that it was "good weather for ducks," I grinned agreement, instead of screaming upon hearing the overworked phrase.

Anxious as a groom on the eve of his wedding, I could hardly wait for Saturday morning. My buddy was punctual, and after a quick get away we arrived at Washington Boro early. It was still dark, raining and blowing. We loaded up the canoe and set out to look for a likely spot.

We rounded an island and headed downstream until we came abreast of a point on the lee side, and decided that was a good place. The water was shallow, we stepped out of the boat and tossed the "Black" cork stools on the choppy waves. We heard a flock of ducks rise and others quack noisily as they swam away in the haze.

Our delight in finding such an ideal location was short lived, for a boat with a couple fellows pulled up out of the dimness and claimed possession, so we gathered our decoys and paddled further down.

Now we could see for quite some distance, and every where there appeared to be blinds and decoys. We concluded that the best course would be to cut across the flats to the other side of the islands and try to find an unoccupied position.

The canoe was loaded with decoys, guns, stakes, canvass, extra coats, etc., and when we attempted to drag it across the mud, it was like trying to move a barge.

We sank in the muck as we pulled and tugged, straining every muscle, stopping every few feet to catch our breath. Once my partner fell and rolled in the slimy mess, and soon afterwards I tripped and landed in a couple inches of water, which was sufficient to run down my boots and make my feet wet.

The dirty sand clung to our clothing, and judging from the looks of my friend, we certainly had a bedraggled appearance, staggering across the mire.

Then at the point of exhaustion, we reached water where the boat would float, and again our elation was dampened by the unhappy thought that my associate had left his shells and lunch in the car back on shore. We moved up between the islands and picked out a place to erect our canvass blind.

By this time I was soaked from the waist down. We put the decoys in the water, unloaded the equipment and then paddled back to the mainland, got his box with food and shells and returned.

My watch showed 8 o'clock as we prepared a vigil for ducks. I was wet to the skin, and had donned my heavy coat, but sat shivering with inward ague in unison to the bobbing raft.

The wind had changed, and our spot was no longer strategically good, so we took a vote on going across to the other island. This meant taking in the decoys, dismantling the blind, load up and do the same thing a over again at a new site.

We put everything in the craft, and as stood in the water my pal got into it, bu lost his balance somehow and fell kersplas into the river, tilting the canoe. Some of th stuff fell out, and the boat was half fille with water as it righted.

We pushed it ashore, and looked in disma at the guns, coats and shells, submerged i the dirty water. The decoys nonchalantl floated about in their private bath.

We took our paraphernalia out once mor

The drenched clothing was begrimed, an the canoe had sticky black mud all over th inside.

We embarked without mishap and crosse over, walked through the tall grass of th island and spotted an empty blind whic we decided to use.

While we stood looking, my partner too out a pack of cigarettes, and in the proce of knocking one out, the whole lot fell t the ground, like coal out of a chute.

He looked at me and remarked with ur affected humor, "Never a dull moment."

We retraced our steps and paddled ove to the blind. After putting out the stool we sat down and waited, remarking that was strange that there wasn't much shootin or that the ducks weren't seen flying.

I was hungry and removed a sandwic from my pocket. My ill-fated companio opened his lunch kit and the sandwiche

*(Continued on Page 32)*

**"But lost his balance somehow and fell kersplash into the river, tilting the canoe."**

# WAY BACK WHEN

## By ARTHUR LOGUE

**The author with bear ensnared in one of the old-time massive steel traps.**

WAY back when the most popular method of taking bears in Pennsylvania was with a steel trap, I received a report from Malcom McKay, a farmer, who resided on Clear Creek, Cameron County, that a bear had made a visit to his apiary and had destroyed several hives of bees. Upon making an investigation we found that the bear had upset, destroyed or damaged ten hives on his first visit and the bee yard looked like a pile of kindling wood. Naturally Mr. McKay was not in too good a humor and demanded that something be done at once to prevent any future damage to his colony which consisted of about fifty swarms of bees.

Back in those days, which was more than twenty years ago, very few people had little respect for a sheep-killing or honey-eating bear and the most popular method of destroying the animals was with a steel trap. After looking over the situation, I decided to set a trap about 300 yards above the bee yard where the bear had been coming down a small ravine. It was understood that Mr. McKay and his hired hand would look after the trap each morning and report to me as soon as the bear was caught.

After two or three mornings had passed without any report, I decided to look the ground over myself because I felt sure the bear was overdue as in most cases of this kind bruin returns about every night for more honey. The hired man was to look at the trap each morning, but for some unknown reason he seemed to be a little afraid to visit the trap. Upon approaching the "set" I could see plenty of evidence that the bear had gotten into the trap and had gone into the woods with the No. 5 Newhouse and the clog, which was between six and seven feet in length. After following the trail for some distance, without a gun, and not finding the bear tied up, I decided to return to the McKay farm and obtain a gun. After informing Mr. McKay that the bear was in the trap and had gone with the clog, and that I would like to have his rifle to kill the animal he told me he did not own a gun.

I then drove down the valley to the farm of Fred Yentzer, an old time hunter of fifty to seventy-five years ago, and inquired if he had a gun that I could borrow. Mr. Yentzer said he had a "righteous" good gun and that I was welcome to use it for this occasion He brought the weapon out of the house. It was a three-barreled gun, with two shot barrels and a .38-55 rifle barrel. He also handed me two shells, which was all that he had, one rifle shell and a pumpkin ball.

Taking up the trail again I proceeded to follow the bear, which was easy to do as he left plenty of evidence by clearing a small "skid" road through the woods. It was late in the afternoon and after following the trail fully a mile and a half. I came upon the creature hiding in a hemlock thicket on top of the mountain. Upon hearing my approach it started down the slope running with the trap and clog, which made quite a noise, and I started on the run in an effort to head him and get a shot. After chasing the animal about three to four hundred yards, I came upon him fast in some small sapplings, and such a sight I never saw. He was biting the trees, growling, and his fur literally stood on end. He was moving so that I could not get a head shot. After getting my breath he stopped moving, so I leveled the rifle barrel on his neck and pulled the trigger. The shot dropped him for just a second but he was right back on his feet. Knowing that I had only one shell left I took good aim and fired the second shot, and in about a minute or more he slowly tipped over. I assumed that it was the second shot that had made the kill. After the bear was dead I looked him over and then I really became frightened. He was so large that I could not begin to roll him over to take the trap off, and the longer I observed his size, the more frightened I became. The sun was setting over the mountain and I started back the trail toward the McKay farm. The next day we returned and secured the trap. The carcass being unfit for food we buried it there in the woods. We skinned out part of the carcass in an effort to locate which shot had made the kill and found the 38-55 rifle bullet lodged in his neck as flat as a pancake. The pumpkin ball had missed him clean, which was the shot I figured had done the trick.

Today, in handling bear cases of this kind, we operate with more modern trapping methods and take the sheep-killing bears in a portable live pen and transport them some thirty to forty miles back into a wilderness section and liberate them for future sport. In this manner we have the bear and eliminate the payment of damages. Recently we developed a tagging crate and tag the animals to learn just whether they return to their original killing grounds or just how far they travel from the point of release. On April 28, 1944 we liberated a small bear at Cherry Springs, Potter County, bearing tag No. 2, marked, "Report to Game Commission, Harrisburg, when killed." This bear has the right hind foot shot off which will be further identification. If it ever falls victim to your gunsight let's hear from you.

Photo by Seth Gordon, 1924.

**One of the permanent log pens trappers used years ago. Note where Bruin gnawed his way to freedom.**

# HIGHLIGHTS OF PROPOSED FEDERAL LEGISLATION

**Above is a reproduction of the 1945-46 Federal Duck Stamp, which will go on sale at all first and second class post offices on July 1. It depicts two male and one female shovellers in full spring plumage. The original sketch in black and white water color, is the work of Owen J. Groome, Curator of birds and mammals at Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.**

Although sportsmen of the various states are not directly concerned about the majority of the conservation measures introduced in Congress, there are some which have an indirect bearing on their future welfare and we take pleasure in highlighting the most important of the over one hundred Bills which have so far been presented.

We are indebted to the National Wildlife Federation and its Washington correspondent, Carl D. Shoemaker, who is also Secretary of the U. S. Senate Special Committee on Conservation of Wildlife Resources, for a monthly analysis of all new legislation, a service which is furnished every state conservation department gratuitously through a Conservation News bulletin published by the Federation.

Two of the most important measures so far introduced are the Missouri Valley Authority Bill (S 555) which was reported adversely to the Senate and the Cordan Bill (S 924), as follows:

S.555. SENATOR MURRAY (Montana).

The Commerce Committee of the United States Senate has reported adversely on the Missouri Valley Authority Bill (S. 555), introduced by Senator Murray of Montana. The report is significant and probably marks the turning point in the Congress on the question of Valley Authorities. It is so clear in its language, so forceful in its logic that there is no escaping the import of its conclusion that "the procedures already established by the Congress for the development of water resources, protect States' rights, and prescribe full cooperation between local, State and Federal interests".

This bill had a unique reference. A Senate resolution was passed in order to route the bill through several committees. First it was to go to the Commerce Committee, which was directed to report on the navigation and flood control features of the bill. When this Committee concluded its consideration the bill, the hearings and report should be sent to the Committee on Irrigation and Reclamation, where the irrigation and reclamation features of the bill were to be considered. Following this reference, this Committee when it concluded its hearings and adopted its report was to send the bill to the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry to consider its agricultural aspects.

The bill has reached the Committee on Irrigation and Reclamation and still has another hurdle to jump when this Committee passes it over to the Agriculture and Forestry Committee. The bill has lost the first round, and those who should know feel that it cannot recover sufficiently to make a comeback.

The Missouri Valley Authority Bill was far reaching. It covered the waters of the Missouri river and its tributaries and the surrounding land in the States of Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota, Wyoming, Colorado, North and South Dakota and Montana. It set up a three-man Board, which in many respects superseded the rights and responsibilities of the executive officers of the States listed. The title of the bill in a general way tells the story of the Authority when it says that it is "to provide for unified water control and resource development on the Missouri River and surrounding region in the interest of the control and prevention of floods, the promotion of navigation and reclamation of the public lands, the promotion of family-type farming, the development of the recreational possibilities and the promotion of the general welfare of the area, the strengthening of the national defense, and for other purposes" Among these "other purposes", not mentioned in the title, was the development of a vast hydro-electric system in the region.

The Commerce Committee held a 10-day hearing and the testimony of the proponents and opponents of the bill fills 576 pages.

### Army Engineers Praised

The report to the Senate was submitted by Senator Overton (La.), who was chairman of the subcommittee to take the testimony After reporting unfavorably upon the navigation and flood control features of the bill the Committee gave high praise to the Army Engineers which "for over 120 years has been assigned the duty of providing for the improved navigation of our rivers and harbors.'

Flood control is not merely a Missouri river problem nor is it just a local problem. Flood control through this watershed is a Mississippi basin-wide problem. The Missouri river is just one of these tributaries. "The flood-control problem of the Mississippi Basin can be solved only by Federal Control by one agency, with authority over the entire Mississippi Basin. The agency best qualified for this task by experience and training is the U. S. Army Engineers."

In the Flood Control Act of December 1944 and the Rivers and Harbors Act of March 1945, Congress authorized an extensive program for navigation and flood control on the Missouri river to be built and operated by the Army Engineering Corps.

The Committee, after carefully considering the bill, reports adversely upon the navigation and flood control features of the bill.

### Opposition To The Bill

While the Commerce Committee was directed to report only on the flood control and navigation aspects of the proposal, those who testified chose to discuss the bill in its entirety, the Committee felt that it could report on the bill as a whole and did so by recommending that it do not pass.

In both the recently enacted Flood Control and Rivers and Harbors bills, Senator Bailey inserted language which broadened the policy of cooperation and coordination between States and Federal Agencies in the investigation and planning stages of such projects.

The Flood Control Act of last December approved a project for irrigation, flood control and power development, and authorized $400,000,000 to prosecute the work.

The Rivers and Harbors Act of March approves a project for development of naviga-

tion on the Missouri from Sioux City, Iowa, to its junction with the Mississippi.

These projects will sooner or later be carried out by the Army Engineers and engineers of the Reclamation Service cooperating with them.

Proponents of the bill declared that river development should be through an Authority Act rather than through the Army Engineers, the Reclamation Service, Soil Conservation Service, and other federal agencies already set up to handle the problems presented.

It was contended by other witnesses that these latter agencies would be forced from the scene if Valley Authorities were set up over all our watersheds. This was concurred in by all our federal agencies. The Committee made a significant statement in the report when it said "that delegation of authority to the extent provided in S. 555 would be an unsound abdication of the responsibility of Congress."

The Farm Union advocated the bill while numerous farm organizations in the Missouri Basin opposed it.

The National Rivers and Harbors Congress, the Mississippi Valley Association, the National Reclamation Association, and numerous other groups throughout the region opposed it.

The legislatures of Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska, Colorado, Iowa and Kansas opposed the bill as did all of the Governors of the ten states affected.

Following are two significant paragraphs from the report and the conclusions reached:

"The opponents of the bill are jealous of their States' sovereignty and of their rights (particularly water rights) under State law. They forsee encroachment of Federal influence into fields of State jurisdiction and subordination of States' rights if the Missouri Valley Authority is created. They do not want Federal domination of their economy and fear the broad authority proposed to be delegated to the Missouri Valley Authority.

"Proponents pointed to the Tennessee Valley Authority as examplifying what they desire for the Missouri Valley but none of them gave recognition to the fact that very large sums of Federal money have been put into the Tennessee Valley Authority and that it is doubtful that the Missouri Valley Authority could expect proportionately as generous treatment. Opposition witnesses did point this out and established the thesis that the Federal Treasury could not be expected to subsidize the Missouri Valley in the same way that the Tennessee Valley was provided for in an admitted experiment."

In summarizing the committee concludes, in part, that:

"Development of the authorized plan under existing Federal agencies will assure proper emphasis on the primary needs of flood control and irrigation.

"It is impracticable to have regular Federal agencies and a valley authority operating in the same territory.

"Under S. 555, the Missouri Valley Authority would be able to control practically all aspects of economic and social life in the Missouri Valley without local interests having proper recourse to Congress; if the Congress desires to enter these questionable fields of activity such functions can best be accomplished by the established Federal agencies under the full control of Congress."

### Other Authority Bills

There are several other Valley Authority bills pending in Congress. One is for the Columbia River Valley (S. 460) by Senator Mitchell of Washington. Others are for the Nine River Systems of America (H.R. 1824) by Mr. Rankin (Miss.); the Ohio Valley (H. R. 2540) by Mr. Bender (Ohio); the Missouri Valley (H.R. 2203), (companion measure to S. 555) by Mr. Cochran (Mo.); and one for the Savannah River by Mr. Hare of S. Car. (H.R. 2648).

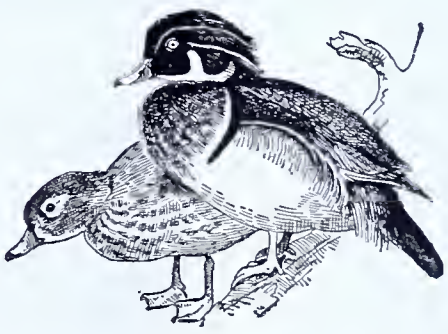
It should be mentioned that the T.V.A. came in for some scathing criticism by many of the witnesses, particularly Congressman A. J. May, of Kentucky, Chairman of the House Military Affairs Committee, who makes eight separate indictments against T.V.A. and then proceeds to prove them. He charges that T.V.A. instead of being a flood control project is a flood menace, that it has done more harm as a soil-conservation project than it can ever undo, that it is anti-social, that it wastefully duplicates the efficient work of the Army Engineers and the Soil Conservation Service, that as a power project it is doomed to be a red-ink bureau, and that it overrides States' rights and State authority.

### Fish and Wildlife

S 924. Senator Cordon (Oregon). Amends the so-called Coordination Act of 1934. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service is authorized to cooperate with the States, and federal agencies and private agencies and organizations in the administration of wildlife species. Dams constructed by the Federal government, or by anyone else under government permit, shall include protective measures for migration of fish. The Fish and Wildlife Service shall make recommendations for devices or measures for this protection. Rules for administration of areas made available through impoundment of waters shall be made by the Secretary of the Interior, provided they are not inconsistent with the State laws for protection of fish and game. Some modification and clarification of the language of this Section 3 will probably be made by the Special Committee on Wildlife Resources, to which the bill was referred.

Other bills affecting fish and wildlife include the following:

H.R. 95. Mr. Voorhis (California). Provides for the transfer of all activities of the Federal government which affect the breeding, raising, marketing or distribution of domestic rabbits from the Fish and Wildlife Service in the Interior Department of the Department of Agriculture.



**Wood Ducks**

S. 518. Senator Lucas (Illinois). Provide for the issuance of permits (to cost not more than $1.00) by the Secretary of the Interior for the use of not more than six live duck decoys in front of any blind for the taking of ducks.

H.R. 1897. Mr. Hagen (Minnesota). Waives the charge for duck stamps sold to members of the armed forces until the end of the first calendar year beginning after the end of the war.

H.R. 1986. Mr. Rees (Kansas). Amends the Act for the suppression of contagious diseases among domestic animals by adding, "or such dogs, other carnivorous animals, whether domestic or wild."

H.R. 2081. Mr. Simpson (Illinois). Permits any person in a duck shooting blind to use not more than six live decoys in the taking of ducks. Referred to Committee on Agriculture.

H.R. 2115. Mr. Granger (Utah). This bill provides that fox, rabbit, mink, chinchilla, marten, fisher, muskrat, karakul and all other fur-bearing animals raised in captivity for breeding or other useful purposes shall be deemed to be domestic animals and therefore "agricultural products" and all functions of the Fish and Wildlife Service which affect the breeding or marketing of said fur-bearers shall be transferred to the Department of Agriculture. Another bill S. 566 Senators LaFollette (Wisconsin), Lucas (Illinois) and Thomas (Utah) is similar.

H.R. 2145. Mr. Voorhis (California). Authorizes investigations, experiments and demonstrations, through the Fish and Wildlife Service, in the breeding and production of domestic rabbits and to cooperate with federal, state and other agencies in carrying out the purposes of the bill.

### National Forests

S. 8. Senator McCarran. Provides that 10% of all National Forest receipts shall be used for making and maintaining range improvements within the national forests.

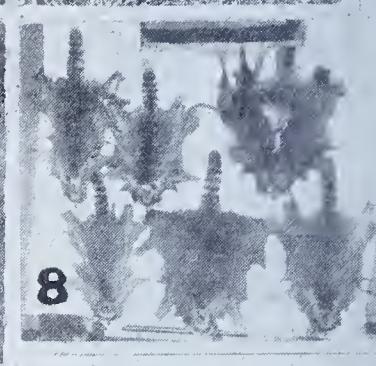
S. 33. Senator McCarran. Relates to the management and administration of national forest grazing lands. Among other purposes the Secretary of Agriculture cannot reduce the number of livestock grazed in the forests unless such restriction is necessary (1) to protect the lands from over-grazing; (2) to preserve public resources; (3) for the orderly administration of the lands for reforestation, recreation, wildlife conservation, mining, public watershed protection, or public water storage and flood control.

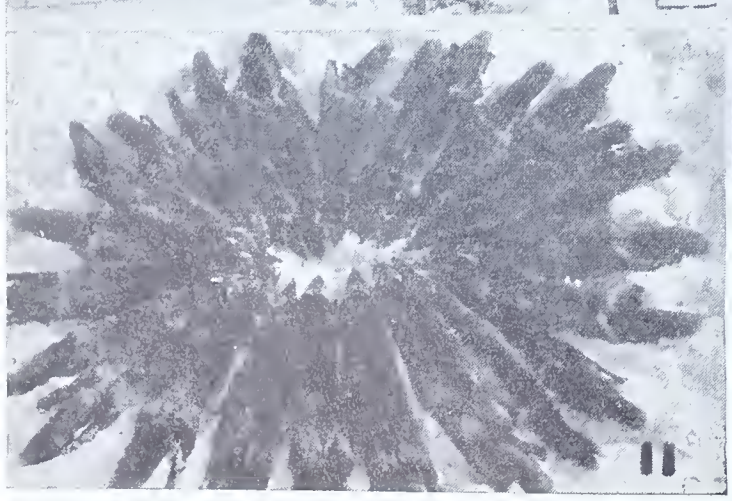
H.R. 2142. Mr. Hoch (Pennsylvania). Authorizes the construction of not to exceed 10,000 miles of a national system of foot trails to be devoted solely for foot travel and camping. The Appalachian Trail, a mountain footpath extending from Maine to Georgia for 2,050 miles shall be included as a trail in the system.

S. 648. Senator Russell (Georgia). Increases from $100,000 in the old law to $500,000 in this proposed law the amount that can be used to provide seeds or plants in cooperation with the States to establish forests, wind breaks and shelterbelts upon denuded and nonforested lands. Heretofore this co-

*(Continued on Page 31)*

# Pictorial





1. John C. McDowell, Robinson, with his two sons, Denver and Blaine, and bunn the family trio bagged first day last season. 2. Members of Red Arrow Gunning Cl with 5- and 8-pointers. Photo by M. Cherrie. 3. Sgt. R. P. Shockley, Camp Reynol and young companion with 3 'coons taken the first night last season in Crawf County. 4. John T. Schrum, Reading, with opening day's bag of cottontails made him and his brother Raymond. 5. Chas. L. Auer, Jr., Salix, sent in this photo of a bu which shed its antlers when it was killed. The lucky nimrod is holding both hor 6. Its feet inextricably lodged in the fork of a tree this unfortunate deer starved death. Photo by C. S. Reddinger, Kittanning. 7. The end of a successful mornin hunt last season in Carbon County. 8. Raccoons caught season of 1944 by Henry Kremer, Schuylkill Haven, and brothers. 9. Here's one we can't identify. So 10. Guido Scolet, Kulpmont, left, and Felix Andreatti with 175 lb. 6-pointer killed Scolet in McKean County. 11. Foxes caught by Game Protector H. F. Hoffman, S quehanna, during the Fall of 1944. 12. Clarke Young, 15 year old State College you with his 7-pointer. 13. Members of Deer Head Hunting Club at camp in McK

# Pictorial

: for Lemuel Stiffler. 14 and 15. Here's two we can't identify, but they ucks nevertheless. 16. A nice 8-point killed by Randall Stover, Woodward. ounty. 17. Beaver trapped in Pine Grove Township, Cumberland County, by Calvin Strausser, right. A buddy, Frank Mutchler is at the left. phy was bagged by Frank O. Link, Millersburg in Dauphin County last he shot the animal he discovered it had 8 points, that a portion of the issing, and one point was broken. A week later another hunter seeking mile from where Link shot his buck picked up a piece of antler which roken rack perfectly so that instead of having an 8-pointer Link had an 19. Harry K. Gundrun, Muncy, with nice 175 pounder killed in Sullivan . Members of Rock Oak Camp, Centre County, bagged 5 nice bucks last Lewis E. Bush, New York City, with 200 lb. bear and 165 lb. deer killed nna County last year. 22. Sgt. John W. Coal, Sheridan, with nice 8- n in Lycoming County.

# ★ ★ ★ CURRENT TOPICS ★ ★ ★

## NEW LEGISLATION

Following is a digest of new legislation enacted by the General Assembly of 1945:

### FREE HUNTING LICENSES TO SERVICE MEN
(Act No. 71)

*Analysis:* This act amends the law to authorize the issuance of a free hunting license to any Pennsylvania resident in the service of the Armed Forces of the United States or any of its Allies, effective for the duration of the present war; licenses available at County Treasurers' Offices only. (Service men and women, who normally are residents of other states, if officially stationed within the Commonwealth 30 or more days before making application, also may obtain such free resident hunting licenses.)

### MONTHLY RETURNS BY ISSUING AGENTS
(Act No. 18)

*Analysis:* Requiring monthly instead of weekly returns by agents issuing hunting licenses; and raising the amount of bond that may be required of issuing agents, from $1000 to $3000, with a $1000 minimum. Returns by agents must be made within 5 days after the close of each month, the same requirement that has heretofore been in effect for County Treasurers.

### ELIMINATING ANNUAL GAME-KILL REPORT
(Act No. 46)

*Analysis:* Repeals the section requiring reports of game birds and animals, and furbearing animals, killed by licensed hunters, effective September 1, 1945. The penalty clause has also been repealed.

### PAYMENT OF BOUNTIES TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
(Act No. 149)

*Analysis:* Requiring the Game Commission to pay established bounties to salaried Game Protectors, Fish Wardens, Foresters, Forest Rangers and all other public employees, to encourage them to destroy predators and compensate them for services beyond their regular call of duty.

### AUXILIARY STATE GAME REFUGE PROJECTS
(Act No. 45)
(Approved March 29, 1945)

*Explanation:* This act amends the Game Law by replacing Sections 924, 925 and 926 with new sections numbered 921, 922 and 923. It clarifies the authority to establish Auxiliary State Game Refuge Projects, and makes specific provision for two types, i.e., General Classification, with an allowable minimum area of 100 acres, and Cooperative Farm-Game Classification, with an allowable minimum of 1000 acres of contiguous farms with accompanying woodlots in each project. Not more than one-third of the area of either classification may be set apart as game refuges and safety zones, the balance to remain open to public hunting. Farm-Game Projects shall be established only where lands are suitable for small game species usually found in farming areas. The new law makes the Cooperative Farm-Game Program more attractive to landowners because it allows them to reserve trapping rights, also makes clear the landowner's right to have the agreements cancelled under certain conditions.

### TAGGING AND REPORTING BIG GAME
(Act No. 200)

*Analysis:* This act amends Section 708 of the Game Law by requiring big game animals (deer and bears) to be tagged *immediately* after entrails are removed, but in any event within *one hour* (previously 4 hrs.) after killing, *and before the carcass is transported in any manner from where it was killed.* Reports of big game kills must be mailed (either on the self-mailing form provided or a post card giving the required information *with license number)* to the Game Commission at Harrisburg within five (5) days after close of season for the animal killed. Section 731 (f) is also amended to reduce the normal penalty from **$25.00** to $10.00 for failure to tag any big game animal as required; $25.00 for transporting any big game animal that has not been tagged; and $2.00 for failure to report the killing of same. The report form will be issued with the license as part of the big game tag. Extra tags with report forms will be available from Game Protectors for those who need them.

### BEAR DAMAGE FUND INCREASED
(Act No. 201)

*Analysis:* This act amends Section 1304 of the Game Law by increasing the *annual* amount of money available for payment of bear damage claims from $3000 to $5000.

### POSTING BEAVER COLONIES AGAINST TRAPPING
(Act No. 202)

*Analysis:* This act amends Section 604 of the Game Law to authorize the Commission to post beaver colonies against trapping within their dams or within 200 feet thereof upon State-owned as well as private lands. Written consent must be obtained from owners of private lands before posting.

---

The English sparrow was first imported into Brooklyn in 1851 to rid shade trees of inchworms.

* * * * *

Hulling strawberries before washing removes a protective outer tissue near the stem and causes a Vitamin C loss.

**ALLAN T. STUDHOLME**

**Few persons to affiliate with the Commission in recent years endeared themselves to everyone as did Allan T. Studholme, Acting Chief of the Division of Propagation and Research, who went his cheerful way minding his own business and doing a good job. As Mr. Gordon so ably expressed it when he presented him a wrist watch on behalf of his associates in the office, "We'd all like to know where you got your formula for making friends."**

**We are all going to miss Allan a great deal, yet we wish him the best of luck in his new job as Regional Inspector for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, headquarters at Boston.**

**Allan first entered the service of the Commission in February 1941 as a research assistant. Later he attended the department's training school where he graduated with highest honors, returning to the Division of Propagation and Research as its Acting Chief in August, 1942.**

## NOTICE

**The Act of General Assembly signed recently by Governor Martin, repealing that section of the Game Law making it mandatory to file game-kill reports, will become effective on September 1. An effort is now being made to finish up last season's business for which 75.5% of the licensees filed their reports early and the results are tabulated.**

**Since the negligent hunters are now known, reminder notices are being mailed daily. Those who respond will not be subject to the $2.00 penalty. Those who have neglected this matter can save the Commission clerical and mailing expenses by getting their reports in before their notices go out.**

## TAXIDERMY EXAMINATIONS

The next annual examination for persons desiring to practice taxidermy for profit will be held on Wednesday, August 1, 1945.

Details will be announced later, however, prospective candidates are urgently requested to write to the Commission's offices at Harrisburg for formal application blank so they will be prepared well in advance of the time of examination.

The examination will be held about six weeks earlier than last year in order to permit successful candidates an opportunity to increase their advertising possibilities.

## TRAP 40,000 RABBITS

Nearly 40,000 rabbits were live-trapped throughout the Commonwealth last winter in sections where they were causing damage or where hunting is not permitted, and transferred to areas where public shooting is allowed This is the largest number ever taken under the live game trapping program which began state-wide during the winter of 1937-38 with the following results: 1937-38, 5,853; 1938-39, 22,980; 1939-40, 31,053; 1940-41, 32,799; 1941-42, 20,330; 1942-43, 30,196; 1943-44, 33,083.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission in making this announcement said large numbers were taken from military reservations such as Letterkenny at Chambersburg and Pennsylvania Ordnance Works at Allenwood south of Williamsport. Trapping activities were conducted in more cities and towns than ever before, and special efforts were made to rid the Victory Gardens of Br'er Rabbit's unwelcome presence.

The Commission does not conduct a live-trapping program during the summer months, but does issue a circular listing rabbit repellents, which will be mailed on request.

Probably the best repellent is a commercial grade of aluminum sulfate which may be used as a spray. Cover foliage thoroughly. It can be easily washed off edible plants such as lettuce. The following formula is suggested:

| Spray Formula | Large Lot | Small Lot |
|---|---|---|
| Aluminum Sulfate (commercial grade) | 5 pounds | 4 teaspoonfuls |
| Hydrated Lime | 20 pounds | 5 tablespoonfuls |
| Water | 100 gallons | 1 gallon |

Dried blood is another substance that rabbits do not like. It may be used as a dust, in which case add 5% flour and sprinkle the dust directly on the plants when they are moist using about 8 ounces to 25 lineal feet of row. If applied as a spray dilute dried blood with water and add one half of 1% flour or some kind of mild soap to the mixture and apply directly to the plants.

These and others are listed on the Commission's circular.

---

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The following item is the answer to a query recently sent us. Believing that other of our readers would be interested, we are hereby publishing it.*

"You are correct regarding the lands in a rifle barrel. When the bore of a barrel is rifled, the tracks on which the bullet rides are known as lands, and the cut-away spaces between the lands are known as grooves. A barrel will usually be rifled with four to seven lands and grooves. When the bullet enters the barrel from its case which rests in the chamber, it engages the lands of the rifling and is forced into rotation.

"The bore diameter of a rifle barrel is the distance from the surface of one land to the surface of the opposite land. So that the lands will engage a bullet, the bullet diameter is therefore slightly larger than the bore diameter."—C. F. McCubbin, Advertising Division, Remington Arms Company, Inc.

---

The Texas nighthawk is the most northern member of a tropical species that ranges widely through Central and South America.

## BOOK REVIEWS

*Conservation In The United States,* By A. F. Gustafson, C. H. Guise, W. J. Hamilton, Jr. and H. Ries—Published by Comstock Publishing Co., New York—Price $4.00

This 470 page volume with its amazingly large number of excellent illustrations deals primarily with soil conservation, the nation's forest, and the conservation of fish, game, fur and mineral resources. The volume is a non-technical presentation of these subjects and especially prepared to acquaint students and other interested readers with important facts concerning conservation of our natural resources. The fact that it is in its second edition speaks for itself. It is doubtful that any other volume treating the broad subject presents a more complete account of all the phases which go to make it up.

---

The *Wolves of North America* by Stanley P. Young is in every way a fine piece of work. It represents painstaking research and careful compilation of the material obtained. Here again is a book which appeals to the fellow who likes the outdoors and animal stories as well as to the technician who is interested only in facts. Much of the book is made up of incidents and observations from the records of hunters, trappers, historians, cattlemen, travelers, natives, etc, and thus makes for interesting reading. There is no phase in the life of a wolf that is not covered in the comprehensive work and the author carries the story through from the early prehistoric history of the wolves down to present day controls and regulations of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The second section on classification of wolves, compiled by E. C. Goldman is complete, concise, and contains a full taxonomic description of all the species in North America.

Books like this add much to the literature of the wildlife field and yet have enough appeal to the layman to help bridge the gap between him and the technician.

Published by the American Wildlife Institute, 822 Investment Building, Washington 5, D. C.

**Danied M. Stambaugh, of Spring Grove, with large fox killed first day of last hunting season.**

## Caricatures of Shooting Positions Reproduced by Remington Arms Company

At any trap or skeet shooting event almost any sort of shooting position can be seen, according to a Remington Arms Company authority.

"There are 'squatters,' 'gun-canters,' 'gun-wigglers,' and 'shoulder-snugglers,'" he said. "There are shooters who seem to court discomfort by trying to make THEMSELVES a part of the gun. There are others who make themselves comfortable by handling the gun in such a way the IT almost becomes a part of THEM. They usually walk away with the trophies.

"Strange shooting positions are not confined to scatter gun fans. Competitive rifle shooters are almost as bad. There are four standard shooting positions in rifle competition in this country—standing, kneeling, sitting and prone. Many manuals designed to improve the rifle shooter's ability have been written and impressively illustrated. If, however, a shooting instructor were allowed only TWO words in which to describe correct shooting posture he would very probably say 'BE COMFORTABLE.'

"Remington Arms Company has recently reproduced four Currier and Ives prints which are amusing caricatures of shooting positions," he continued. "The inspiration for them came from some of the positions assumed by the contestants in the second Great International Rifle Match, held at Dollymount, Ireland, in 1875.

"The first Great International Rifle Match was held in 1874, when the Amateur Rifle Club of New York accepted the challenge of the Irish Eight, winners of the Elcho Shield, which is emblematic of the long-distance shooting championship of the British Isles. The match was held at Creedmoor, Long Island, which was the range of the newly formed National Rifle Association. The Americans won 934 to 931. The next year they went to Dollymount . . . and again won . . . 968 to 929 . . . regardless of the seemingly impossible shooting positions used.

"These prints, which caricature some of the positions, are titled THE QUEEN'S OWN!, E PLURIBUS UNUM!, ERIN GO BRAGH!, THE HIGHLAND FLING! They are available to any shooter who wants them for his club or den wall. Just request them from Rifle Promotion Section, Remington Arms Company, Inc., Bridgeport 2, Connecticut."

---

A full-grown kangaroo rat can carry a teaspoonful of seeds in each cheek pouch, and at this rate would have to make 600 trips with loaded "packs" to accumulate one bushel.

* * * * *

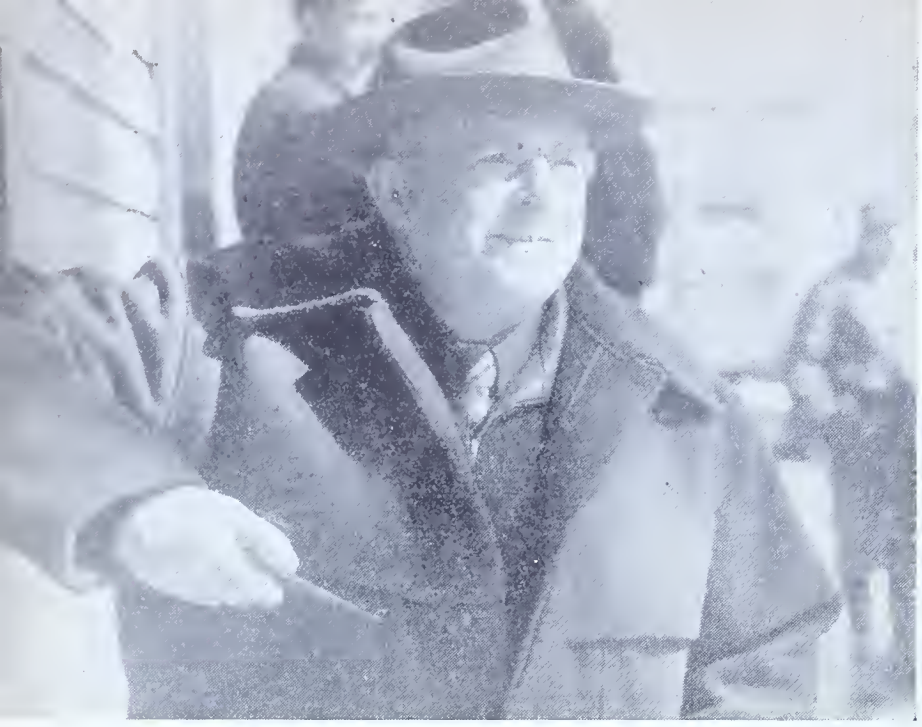
The western burrowing owl, that nests in deserted prairie-dog or ground-squirrel burrows, often comes out in the daylight and stands bobbing its head and bowing comically before backing down to wait for darkness.

* * * * *

Stiffness of leaves is due largely to water in their cells.

* * * * *

Swifts, swallows and whippoorwills fly with their mouths open to catch insects.



Photos by W. L. R. Drake.

**Left, Game Commissioner Harold Moltz, Williamsport, interestedly observing the results of a beaver auction held at Dushore following the close of the 1945 beaver season. Every year following the beaver season certain towns advantageously located are designated as places where trappers can meet with local Game Protectors and have their pelts properly stamped. Following this procedure the pelts are usually auctioned off to local fur dealers.**

## NOTICE TO SPORTSMEN

### Bounty Payments

"WHEREAS, Notwithstanding the successful predator control campaign waged by our employees and interested sportsmen during the past year, the statewide predator population of the Commonwealth, except in the case of the weasel, has not been reduced as anticipated due to (1) the absence of many hunters and trappers in the Armed Services, (2) pressing wartime occupational duties and travel restrictions, and (3) low fur prices as well as unfavorable trapping conditions last winter; and

"WHEREAS, The members of the Predator Control Committee, after exhaustive study, recommend to the Commission that bounties now in effect be continued and that a bounty be placed on the red fox in all counties except those indicated; and

"WHEREAS, The Commission, after giving due consideration to said recommendations and reports from numerous dependable observers, is of the opinion that it is desirable to continue certain bounty rates heretofore established, and to pay rewards for the killing of other predators throughout the Commonwealth, except as indicated, in the hope of bringing about a reduction in the numbers of said creatures and better thereby to protect game;

"THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Pennsylvania Game Commission, acting under the powers and authority vested in it by the provisions of Article XI, Section 1101 of the Act of June 3, 1937, P. L. 1225, as amended by the Act of May 1, 1945 (Act No. 149), entitled 'An Act concerning game and other wild birds and wild animals; and amending, revising, consolidating, and changing the law relating thereto,' by resolution unanimously adopted this second day of May, 1945, hereby continues for one year from July 16, 1945, the rates of bounty for certain predators as established on May 6, 1944, and places a bounty on the red fox for a like period, said year to begin July 16, 1945, and expiring July 15, 1946, both dates inclusive, the payments herein authorized to be made for the birds and animals enumerated below when killed in a wild state in any county of the Commonwealth during the period specified if presented in the manner and under the conditions stipulated in the Act aforesaid, except that no bounty shall be paid for either gray or red foxes killed in the counties of Chester and Delaware where a special Act of the General Assembly restricts the killing of foxes to the protection of personal property, the rates of payment to be as follows:

1. *Gray Fox*—The current $4.00 bounty on the gray fox to be continued except as above indicated;
2. *Red Fox*—A bounty of $4.00 to be paid for the red fox except as above indicated;
3. *Weasel*—The $1.00 bounty on the weasel to be continued;
4. *Great-Horned Owl*—The bounty of $4.00 to be continued for adult great-horned owls and $2.00 for fledglings which have not left the nest; and
5. *Goshawk*—The bounty on the goshawk to be continued at $2.00 for adults and $1.00 for fledglings which have not left the nest.

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the foregoing resolution shall be duly published in accordance with the provisions of Section 1102 of Article XI of the Act aforesaid in the May and June 1945 issues of the PENNSYLVANIA GAME NEWS, this change in the rates of bounties also to be brought to the attention of the public through other available channels, the Executive Director being hereby authorized and directed to certify the foregoing rules and regulations as and for the act of the Pennsylvania Game Commission."

I hereby certify the above to be a full, true and correct copy of the resolution establishing bounties on certain predators killed in a wild state within the Commonwealth from July 16, 1945 to July 15, 1946, inclusive, as adopted by the Pennsylvania Game Commission at a meeting held May 2, 1945, public notice of which action is published in accordance with the requirements of law.

SETH GORDON, *Executive Director*,
Pennsylvania Game Commission.

## TRAP 1,663 BEAVERS

Pennsylvania trappers bagged 1,663 beavers in the thirty-six counties which were open to these animals from February 15, 1945 to March 1, 1945.

| *County* | *No. Beavers* |
|---|---|
| Bradford | 36 |
| Butler | 13 |
| Cameron | 12 |
| Carbon | 9 |
| Centre | 25 |
| Chester | 1 |
| Clarion | 28 |
| Clearfield | 32 |
| Clinton | 51 |
| Columbia | 10 |
| Crawford | 157 |
| Dauphin | .. |
| Elk | 70 |
| Erie | 63 |
| Forest | 169 |
| Jefferson | 7 |
| Lackawanna | 2 |
| Lancaster | .. |
| Luzerne | 160 |
| Lycoming | 27 |
| McKean | 143 |
| Monroe | 36 |
| Montour | .. |
| Northumberland | .. |
| Pike | 42 |
| Potter | 107 |
| Schuylkill | 8 |
| Snyder | 1 |
| Sullivan | 63 |
| Susquehanna | 23 |
| Tioga | 34 |
| Union | 6 |
| Venango | 85 |
| Warren | 196 |
| Wayne | 34 |
| Wyoming | 13 |
| Total | 1,663 |

Since the first beaver season was opened in 1934, 18,826 of these valuable fur-bearers have been taken as follows: 1934, 6,456; 1936, 2,261; 1937, 1,222; 1938, 541; 1939, 353: 1940, 703; 1941, 1,195; 1942, 1,140; 1943, 2,011; 1944, 1,281; 1945, 1,663. There was no beaver season in 1935.

## $13,000,000 for Hunting Licenses

Hunters spent $13,547,152 for 7,505,258 hunting licenses during the 1943-44 season, the Fish and Wildlife Service reported to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes today upon the completion of the summary based on figures supplied by the States. These totals represent a decrease of 585,929 in licenses and $51,271 in revenue as compared with the preceding year.

In revenue received, Pennsylvania led all other States with $1,367,473. Next in line was Michigan with $1,104,410, followed by New York with $821,706; California, $705,579; Wisconsin, $624,894; Ohio, $623,014; Washington, $540,230; Minnesota, $483,012; Colorado, $479,789; and South Dakota, $465,602.

In number of licenses issued, Michigan topped the list with 732,479, followed by New York with 589,864; Pennsylvania, 582,242; Ohio, 490,533; Indiana, 341,818; Minnesota, 332,476; Wisconsin, 291,832; California, 282,-693; Washington, 278,544; and Illinois, 268,-375.

Since the total of 7,505,258 licenses includes 634,197 big game licenses, in addition to small game licenses required by Colorado, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming, there is a duplication to an unknown extent in the number of hunters in these States. Many big game hunters undoubtedly purchased small game licenses; and, when that occurred, two license sales were recorded for each hunter.

Total license sales also include 1,429,708 combination hunting and fishing licenses which were sold by States having a license system that makes it necessary for anglers to purchase combination licenses. No doubt many of these license holders did not hunt, but the number is not known.

Federal migratory-bird hunting stamps, commonly called "duck stamps," were issued to 1,164,191 sportsmen for use during the 1943-44 season. This figure is 215,901 less than the number sold during the preceding year. The Federal stamps at $1.00 each are required of all waterfowl hunters over 16 years of age, in addition to State licenses. The total paid for State licenses and Federal duck stamps amounted to $14,711,343.

Licenses authorizing the trapping of fur-bearers were granted to 2,314,412 persons at a cost of $444,317. However, many of them were combination licenses which the holders obtained in order to hunt or fish.

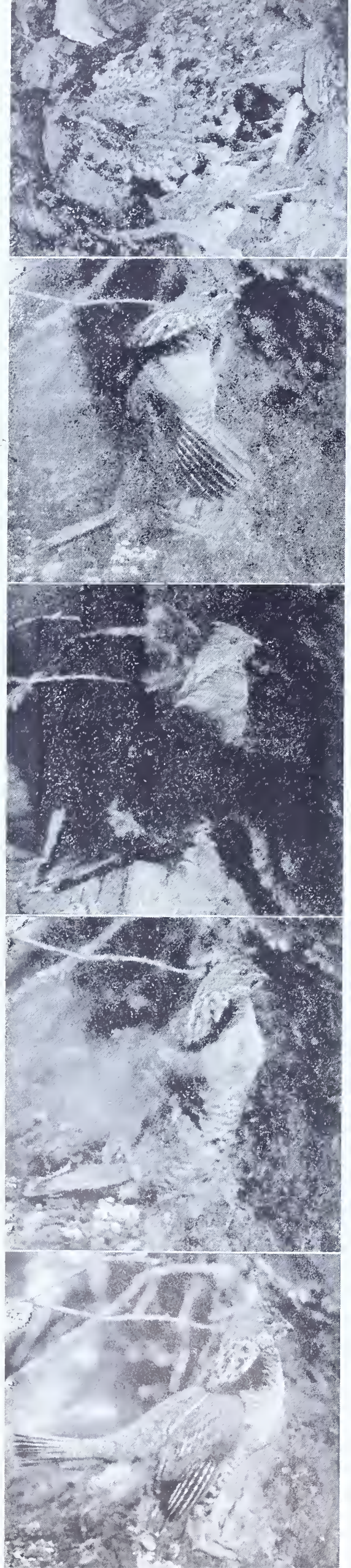
The appended tabulation summarizes by States the number of hunting licenses and duck stamps issued and the revenue collected.

HUNTING LICENSE AND FEDERAL DUCK STAMP SALES
July 1, 1943, to June 30, 1944

| State | Resident | Non-Resident | Total Licenses | Fees Paid By Hunters | Federal Duck Stamps |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alabama | 77,700 | 623 | 78,323 | $ 139,456 | 5,841 |
| Arizona | 35,370 | 844 | 36,214 | 117,532 | 4,145 |
| Arkansas | 58,277 | 2,214 | 60,491 | 122,646 | 19,725 |
| California | 280,851 | 1,842 | 282,693 | 705,579 | 92,056 |
| Colorado | 209,002 | 2,208 | 211,210 | 479,789 | 19,969 |
| Connecticut | 32,533 | 317 | 32,850 | 102,710 | 6,172 |
| Delaware | 14,151 | 67 | 14,218 | 18,437 | 2,906 |
| Florida | 50 515 | 598 | 51,113 | 167,902 | 11,675 |
| Georgia | 39,062 | 508 | 39,570 | 82,801 | 2,511 |
| Idaho | 119,029 | 863 | 119,892 | 132,664 | 19,921 |
| Illinois | 266,990 | 1,385 | 268,375 | 421,260 | 66,587 |
| Indiana | 341,102 | 716 | 341,818 | 265,314 | 22,740 |
| Iowa | 189,341 | 610 | 189,951 | 172,368 | 36,749 |
| Kansas | 85,913 | 250 | 86,163 | 89,505 | 25,278 |
| Kentucky | 70,921 | 339 | 71,260 | 122,930 | 4,227 |
| Louisiana | 99,898 | 1,852 | 101,750 | 114,338 | 35,199 |
| Maine | 106,534 | 7,287 | 113,821 | 228,247 | 9,162 |
| Maryland | 68,557 | 2,317 | 70,874 | 186,541 | 10,182 |
| Massachusetts | 82,366 | 1,029 | 83,395 | 160,476 | 18,677 |
| Michigan | 726,340 | 6,139 | 732,479 | 1,104,410 | 83,554 |
| Minnesota | 331,847 | 629 | 332,476 | 483,012 | 95,446 |
| Mississippi | 60,737 | 689 | 61,426 | 129,154 | 7,487 |
| Missouri | 200,564 | 694 | 201,258 | 290,894 | 34,193 |
| Montana | 106,653 | 624 | 107,277 | 168,480 | 22,147 |
| Nebraska | 120,463 | 1,355 | 121,818 | 129,494 | 21,181 |
| Nevada | 13,079 | 3,491 | 16,570 | 67,653 | 5,288 |
| New Hampshire | 59,882 | 4,985 | 64,867 | 130,435 | 3,432 |
| New Jersey | 117,390 | 1,453 | 118,843 | 235,317 | 19,519 |
| New Mexico | 30,329 | 1,774 | 32,103 | 145,630 | 4,614 |
| New York | 585,117 | 4,747 | 589,864 | 821,706 | 38,730 |
| North Carolina | 90,774 | 1,814 | 92,588 | 174,084 | 8,291 |
| North Dakota | 47,292 | 899 | 48,191 | 118,099 | 20,713 |
| Ohio | 489,847 | 686 | 490,533 | 623,014 | 21,334 |
| Oklahoma | 84,215 | 549 | 84,764 | 110,891 | 19,974 |
| Oregon | 124,936 | 1,418 | 126,354 | 454,520 | 32,750 |
| Pennsylvania | 570,415 | 11,827 | 582,242 | 1,367,473 | 25,027 |
| Rhode Island | 8,786 | 136 | 8,922 | 21,288 | 2,764 |
| South Carolina | 48,779 | 2,175 | 50,954 | 109,538 | 4,893 |
| South Dakota | 73,892 | 19,469 | 93,361 | 465,602 | 25,483 |
| Tennessee | 119,924 | 706 | 120,630 | 126,512 | 10,929 |
| Texas | 117,083 | 347 | 117,430 | 242,841 | 70,441 |
| Utah | 80,535 | 5,111 | 85,646 | 340,194 | 15,679 |
| Vermont | 41,923 | 2,843 | 44,766 | 82,308 | 2,836 |
| Virginia | 124,073 | 2,090 | 126,163 | 189,271 | 10,713 |
| Washington | 278,398 | 146 | 278,544 | 540,230 | 63,050 |
| West Virginia | 169,634 | 891 | 170,525 | 178,863 | 1,481 |
| Wisconsin | 290,744 | 1,088 | 291,832 | 624,894 | 66,328 |
| Wyoming | 41,968 | 2,767 | 44,735 | 224,011 | 6,447 |
| Dist. of Columbia | | | | | 1,349 |
| UNITED STATES | 7,383,731 | 107,411 | 7,491,142 | $13,530,313 | 1,159,945 |
| Alaska | 13,841 | 275 | 14,116 | 16,839 | 4,143 |
| Hawaii | | | | | 103 |
| Puerto Rico | | | | | 105 |
| TOTALS | 7,397,572 | 107,686 | 7,505,258 | $13,547,152 | 1,164,191 |

Photos by W. L. R. Drake.

**Left—Game Protector Paul Failor, Mt. Pocono, looking into the den of a black bear found on State Game lands No. 127, formerly the Tobyhanna Military Reservation, Monroe County, and right, two of the cubs which had been placed in a shallow depression outside the cave by their mother when Protector Failor and W. L. R. Drake approached the den. They caught a fleeting glimpse of mother Bruin disappearing in the undergrowth. The little fellows were photographed in their improvised nest. The two men hung around for quite some time hoping the mother would return. In late afternoon they gave it up, but came back next morning only to find that Mrs. Bruin had removed the youngsters some time during the night.**



## CLUB NEWS

"The Spangler Dog Training Area Club stocked 140 cottontails in hunting territory surrounding Barnesboro and Spangler last season.

"The rabbits were bought by the club, which has 50 members. The members also made ten feed boxes which were distributed over the training area and serviced from time to time with 600 lbs. of grain purchased during the winter.

"In traveling over the area this spring, we find that we have a large number of ruffed grouse, rabbits, and a nice covey of 15 to 20 quail.

"We believe our time and money was well spent in feeding the game, and are well pleased to see so much game after such a hard winter.

"We hold regular club meetings on the last Sunday of each month at 7 P.M. and have a good attendance at all meetings."—Paul Hineman, Sec., Barnesboro, Pa.

## SPRING DOG TRIALS

A field of thirteen qualified dogs started Saturday morning April 2, at Marienville, Pa., in the 32d Annual Running of the National Grouse Dog Championship. Included in the classy field of starters were four champions.

Weather conditions were ideal for the running and it was a championship contest all the way.

Skyrocket's Flashlight, owned by J. N. Leggett of Fox Chapel, Pittsburgh, Pa., trained and handled for the event by W. A. Hugus, of Ridgway, Pa., was declared Champion by unanimous vote of the judges. The decision was greeted with enthusiasm and met with the approval of the other owners, handlers and spectators.

The next day, Sunday, nearly all in attendance at the Trial, met at the Renton Farm near Marienville, on the Loleta Road, where lunch was served and a good time was had by all. Quite a number of the owners and handlers present ran dogs over some of the nearby courses and pronounced them ideal and in general, approved the location as one suitable for running grouse trails. Arrangements are under way to secure these grounds so that they can be prepared for future grouse trials.

Five dogs started in the Junior All-age Stake and the winners turned in creditable showings. The entry was light but the stake was hotly contested all the way.

Twelve puppies were entered in the puppy classic which proved one of the outstanding features of the trials. The event itself was given unanimous approval by everyone present and it looks like a feature for future trials. Nearly everyone present agreed that Conformation is an extremely important factor to be considered in the development of Class Grouse Dogs.

Eighteen puppies made up one of the most classy fields witnessed in many years. It can be said that many of these puppies, a year old or less, performed in such a high class manner, as to be compared to many a Derby Event of the past.

**We are indebted to Robert B. Ford, well-known wildlife photographer and lecturer of Homestead, Pa., for these excellent scenes of grouse drumming which he secured last year. Color movies of the same thing are said to be among the finest wildlife pictures Mr. Ford has ever taken.**

---

The Monessen Sportsmen's Association held its fifth annual banquet on April 18, 1945, at the First Christian Church at Monessen. More than 200 were present including Hon. James A. Kell, Secretary of Forests and Waters, and Joseph Critchfield, Fish Commissioner, both of whom spoke interestingly on the work of their departments.

The principal speaker of the evening was Leo A. Luttringer, Jr., editor of THE PENNSYLVANIA GAME NEWS, who pointed out the aims of the Game Commission to purchase more land in farm-game sections of the Commonwealth, intensify management of lands, establish research laboratories, open more lands to shooting and conduct a conservation education program in the schools. He also showed and commented on some new wildlife motion pictures.

The Monessen association, now nine years old, was started by a few sportsmen in 1936; now there are 230 active members. The organization owns a 31-acre tract near the city and has plans for major developments later on.

---

According to Game Protector Bruce Yeager, who spoke at one of its recent meetings, the Milton Fish and Game Association is doing a good job of cooperation with the Game Commission.

This organization, consisting of over 700 members, took an active part in the feeding program last winter. They fed small game and cut browse for deer. It was through their efforts in the White Deer section of Union County that many animals survived the winter.

The club recently purchased 5 electric brooders and have made application for 1250 day-old chicks under the Commission's cooperative game propagation program.

---

The Bucktails of Venango County are sponsoring a drive to save the rabbits on the highways. According to S. W. Jackson, highways engineer of the Bucktails' district, 75 per cent of the animals killed on the highways could be saved by careful driving, and the Bucktails deserve credit for the action they are taking to make drivers game-conscious and reduce this wanton slaughter.

---

## ANSWERS TO WHAT'S WRONG FOR JUNE

1. Wood ducks do not nest on the ground, but in holes in trees.

2. The upper mandible of falcons has a deep notch or "tooth" in it.

3. Rattlesnakes cannot strike the full length of their body.

4. Wood warblers would probably not come to a feeding station. Their bills are too soft to crack corn and hard seeds; they are insect-eaters.

## THREE BILLION DOLLARS FOR HUNTING AND FISHING!

Hunting and fishing are sports which will play a far more prominent part in the recreational picture of the post-war world than they have in the past. This is the prediction of a Remington Arms Company authority.

"These sports," he said, "are participative sports. One doesn't sit in a grand stand and watch the other fellow hunt or fish. If he likes these healthy sports, he does the pleasant job himself—and definitely does NOT want an audience. Companionship? Sure! But not an audience!

"In peace times more than 20,000,000 Americans hunt or fish—or both, according to *Nation's Business*. A conservative estimate of their individual annual expenditures in the enjoyment of their favorite sports could be set (for round numbers) at $100. This includes equipment, travel and odds and ends, the description of which would require the space of a sporting encyclopedia.

"Summed up, this means that, in peace times, the American sportsmen were spending $2,000,000,000 a year for their favorite sports—and liking it. It is my prediction that 'when the boys come home' they'll want to relax—and hunt and fish. And they'll also be more than willing to do their share toward maintaining a goodly supply of game and fish for this and future generations.

"Wildlife has had a rest during the present war. Certain species have increased to such an extent that control measures have been necessary. This, however, is not a normal situation and when the 'boys come back' they'll be mighty happy to reap the so-called surplus crop.

"Some authorities believe that sportsmen and returning service men, eager to enjoy peace-time hunting and fishing, may bring the annual post-war hunting and fishing expenditure up to as much as $3,000,000,000.

"These figures," he continued, "may seem rather fantastic to some. The average baseball fan spends about $30 a year for his tickets. He doesn't need new equipment to sit in the grand stand and cheer for the home team. And he doesn't have to pay much for transportation to and from the ball park.

"It's a somewhat different story with the hunter or the angler. He is, in a major way, a PARTICIPATOR, and in a minor way, a spectator. He has to replenish his expendable equipment every season, but the anticipation of using his new rods, lures or guns makes up for the dent in his pocketbook.

"His equipment is not the whole story. Travel, food, lodging and many other factors enter the picture of his expenditures. Items too numerous to mention—but you can bet that a larger annual expenditure by sportsmen in the post-war period is not too much to expect," he concluded.

---

Eggs, coated with a film of highly refined, colorless, paraffin-base oil, may be preserved for months at 31 degrees Fahrenheit.

* * * * *

Termites that feed on wood are able to do so because they have within them one-celled animals known as flagellates that live in their intestines and digest the wood for them.

## A COMMENT

We are always happy to have our readers comment on the material we publish and those who contribute material from time to time likewise. Accordingly we are quoting below a portion of a letter received from Hon. A. Willis Robertson of Virginia, chairman of the House Select Committee on Conservation of Wildlife Resources, Washington, D. C., with reference to the little digest on "Hungry Hunter's Recipes" which appeared in the January number.

Representative Robertson says "In my opinion no game bird except the coot should be skinned, and especially is that true of quail and grouse. And no quail or grouse should be soaked in salt water. That draws the meat and makes it tough. A quail should be carefully picked without breaking the skin. A young bird, and you can tell that by the first three wing feather (if they are round he is young and if they are pointed he is old), should be split down the back and broiled in butter without any bacon gravy because that mars the delicacy of the flavor. An old bird should be cooked the same way for the first fifteen or twenty minutes. Then enough water to make steam only should be put in the pan and cover put over the pan and the bird steamed for another ten minutes. Then the cover should be removed and the bird browned. A grouse should be started off the same way as a quail for the first twenty minutes. Then for another twenty minutes it should be cooked in a covered pan in a moderately hot oven and basted every five minutes. In the oven the bird is cooked with the breast up and the basting will keep the breast meat, which of course is the best, soft and juicy.

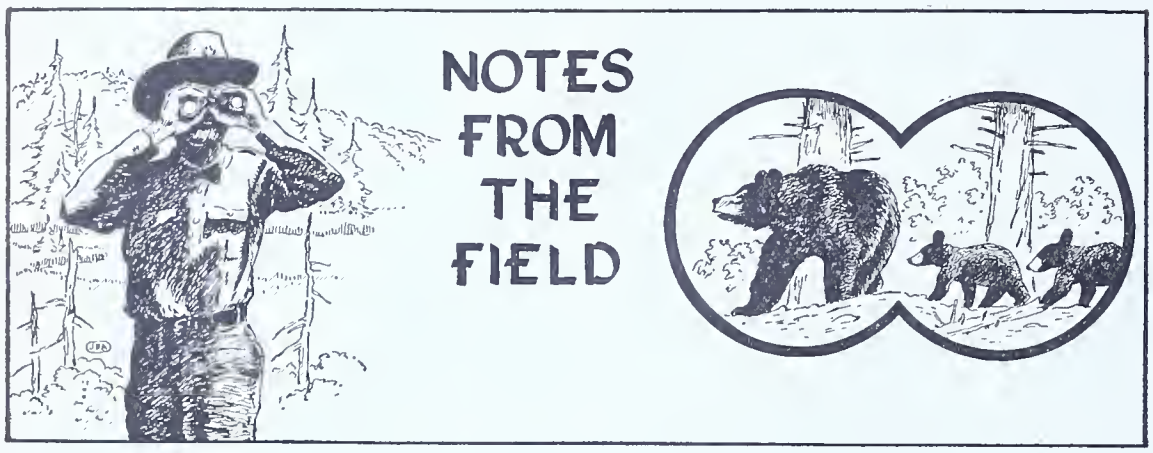
"Coots should be skinned and then fried or broiled like you would a young chicken, but I prefer my duck cooked with or without an apple in a very hot oven for about twenty minutes if it is small and about twenty-five minutes if it is a canvas-back or a mallard. Any other seasoning will interfere with the wild flavor of the duck. Cooking the duck beyond the time when the berast is a light pink but not bleeding when cut will make the meat tougher and change the flavor. But after all is said and done, no seasoning or cooking can take the place of the inside feeling that corresponds to Cassius' lean and hungry look."

---

A preliminary statement issued by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service reveals that a combined total of 15,308,264 hunting and fishing licenses was issued by the various states during the year ending June 30, 1944. This represents a drop of approximately 5% from the preceding year. Revenues from 1943-44 sales, however, came to $23,367,772, a decrease of less than 1% from 1942-43 totals.

---

**The above photos taken by Game Protector Wm. J. Carpenter, of Mt. Jewett, show how nearly a tragedy of the wild might have occurred had not the almost fully buried deer been found by an elert observer. Needless to say it did not take a rescue crew long to extricate the animal from its unusual position.**




"The officers of Division 'C' were successful in eradicating approximately 40,000 crows by various control measures during the past severe winter. These operations were carried on mostly in the lower tier counties of the Division where the crows were most plentiful.

"Game protectors, sportsmen and farmers from the northern tier counties report that the crow population is decidedly less this year. We are hearing the same kind of reports from persons in the adjoining counties in New York State, and have decided there can be only one conclusion—the elimination of so many crows in our section accounts for their scarcity up there. It is generally understood the birds that winter in the central Pennsylvania regions spend the warmer months farther north.

"We are highly pleased with the results of this crow eradication campaign and have been complimented on it from a great many sources. We believe an expanded crow eradication program would be very beneficial to small game."—Division Game Supervisor T. F. Bell, Williamsport. April, 1945.

---

"Who can kill the most crows?" is what the Titusville Sportsmen's Club and the Colestock High Sportsmen's Club tried to find out during April and May. We hope they will tell us later.

The Titusville Club boasts a total of 513 members. Of this number 116 have just joined this year, 263 are old members and 134 are in the armed services.

---

"On Sunday, April 22, nine members of the Great Swamp Fish, Game and Forestry Association, Quakertown, and Mr. Otto J. Hippeli and his two sons, myself and a few of my helpers, planted 1,000 Norway Spruce and 1,000 White Pine transplants on Farm Game Project No. 7 on Mr. Hippeli's farm in the upper end of Milford Township, Bucks County.

"This coming week, May 1, we are planting, with the assistance of the North Penn Fish, Game and Forestry Association, Sellersville, 500 Black Walnut and 500 White Pine Seedlings on the Felix G. Weiss' farm located near Finland, Milford township.

"Later through the Branch Valley Fish, Game and Forestry Association, Perkasie, we shall plant 2,000 White Pine transplants and 500 Black Locusts on the Clarence J. Alexander farm located on Farm Game Project No. 44 in Tinicum township.

"I believe more work of this kind by more associations would help us save and protect more game.—Clarence H. Mumbauer, Deputy Game Protector, Perkasie.

"Near Conneaut a rabbit was seen trying to protect her nest of young from a crow. Each time the crow would alight near the nest, the rabbit would rush at it and the crow would fly up into the air about fifty feet, hover a few seconds, and then light again. This performance was repeated again and again until the crow was frightened away."—Game Protector Elmer D. Simpson, Cambridge Springs, April, 1945.

---

"Temperatures as low as 18 degrees were reported on the morning of April 22. Many of the apple trees were in bloom at the time and others had buds well advanced. The freeze should have killed every blossom but does not appear to have done so. Examination of blossoms in many different sections reveals that very few of the ovaries have been blasted, but that the stem itself has a sickly appearance. Most of the shadbush had set before the hard freeze and many trees are still carrying their load of fruit."—Game Protector L. B. Rosenkrans, Wilcox, April, 1945.

---

"I've been getting some reports of turkeys in different sections of Horse Valley. I have noticed some turkeys on the front side of Blue Mountain and have found two grouse nests in Rothan Valley.

"Although we have had some very heavy frosts in this section, I don't see that it has done much damage. The oak blossoms and the grapes look okay."—Game Protector D. H. Franklin, Upper Strasburg, April, 1945.

---

"On Saturday, April 28, while returning from spreading lime on game food plots on Game Lands 99, I noticed a crow on the Hill Valley road quite some distance before me. The thing that drew my attention was the antics the crow was going through. He seemed to parry and feint not unlike a boxer. As I drew closer I observed a snake on the road. Close examination disclosed a copperhead approximately 18 inches long. The crow was apparently aiming to kill the snake. Before I left the scene I finished the job Mr. Crow had started."—Game Protector William Lane, Hustontown, April, 1945.

---

"A large number of ringneck pheasants have been seen in this vicinity during the past month. They did not appear to have been birds that were stocked. It is more or less a mystery to me just where and how they survived the severe winter.

"It is believed the mortality in deer was much lower than expected. Very few have been noted or reported to have been found dead in the forests and along the streams. Some were killed here and there by dogs due to their weakened condition and the heavy snow fall."—Game Protector Howard Hoffman, Susquehanna, April, 1945.

---

"The deer herd has come through the winter very well. As to date I have not found any dead deer on Game Lands 159 or 183."—Game Protector Wallace Woodring, Hawley, April, 1945.

---

"I saw a ringneck rooster successfully fight two crows from a hen and her nest.

"The crop of mast will be poor in this section this year due to the hard frosts of the last two weeks and the advanced state of the foliage.

"I would advise planting all the corn on Game Lands that we can get in with the labor shortage, as we will need it by fall."—Game Protector R. P. Schmid, Slippery Rock, April, 1945.

---

"While working at improvement detail at State Game Lands 176, I was much surprised by the number of groundhogs in the refuge. It seems to me that any good that might come to rabbits through use of the groundhogs' holes is offset by the groundhogs gobbling up all available food in the vicinity. We certainly need additional food plots to supply them."—Game Protector Elmer Pilling, Philipsburg, April, 1945.

---

"Frosts during the month, after the warm weather during March, has caused much damage to the early flowering shrubs and fruit trees.

"Covering about the same ground, I have seen a greater number of grouse this year than I did last.

"Trout fishing the first days of the season was better than usual, due to the exceptionally warm weather. Many fishermen came off Bobbs Creek, Game Lands 26, with their limit of trout by 9:00 A.M."—Game Protector Jack P. DeLong, Portage, April, 1945.

---

"On Saturday, April 28, I met the Scoutmaster, Mr. Glen Keffer, and 15 Boy Scouts at the State Camps. We all piled into the truck and went to Pine Flats where we spent the day planting wild rice seed, which had been donated by Dr. J. N. Moonly, in the swamp areas. The boys who did not have boots planted sunflower seeds along the roads.

"Received a shipment of quail and they were very nice."—Game Protector William G. Matthews, Rector, April, 1945.

**Arthur Deeble and wife, Delano, with 2 raccoons, 10 muskrats, 9 weasels, 3 skunks and 1 opossum, all captured within a 5-mile radius of their home town during November and December, 1944.**

"I find game conditions good in general."—Game Protector R. E. Holzapple, Middleburg, April, 1945.

---

"On April 10 a forest fire burned over a part of State Game Lands 119. I will submit a report on same, as soon as I have an opportunity to check on the area burned.

"On the opening day of trout season, a total of thirteen cars used the parking area at Brady's Lake. A light catch of perch was made in the lake, and a few brook trout were taken from Trout Creek.

"Plowing and discing of plots for demonstration plantings on State Game Lands 127 were started the latter part of this month.

"We planted 7,476 seedlings on State Game Lands 127."—Game Protector H. D. Carroll, Thornhurst, April, 1945.

---

"I have failed to see any ruffed grouse in either Tioga County or Potter County. I think if there is a season this fall they will be exterminated.

"I've seen plenty of bear and deer signs, especially around the farms."—Game Protector Ernest E. Hunsinger, Conrad, April, 1945.

---

Demand for food brought about by the war, and shortages of beef, pork, mutton, and poultry for civilian consumption has resulted in an increase in the production of domestic rabbits of from 200 to 300 percent, according to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

---

Lansing Trappers took 2,984 beaver pelts in northern counties of the lower peninsula in Michigan, last season. This is the largest number in the last five years.

---

"The Pennsylvania field trials were held on April 6th. The National Grouse Dog Championship was won by Skyrocket's Flashlight, owned by J. N. Leggett of Fox Chapel, Pittsburgh, Pa. This dog ran on all-age course No. 6. The first part of this course is on Dr. Khale's land. On the game land part of the course we had made release cuttings, and that is where the dogs found the grouse.

"Last year on the first day of trout season at Mill Creek on State Game Lands 74 there were eleven fires built that had to be put out by Game Protectors and Fish Wardens. This year the crowd the first day of trout season was just as big, but there were no fires."—Game Protector Edward Shaw, Leeper, April, 1945.

---

"Two dogs killed doe deer in the fields at headquarters and I lacked only yards of getting a shot at them. I have hunted for these dogs and am not certain I have located even one of them. I never saw them before and had no reports of such dogs. I have partly made it up with other dogs, most of which seem to be young ones dumped off where I might see them.

"I was fortunate in getting two acres plowed for corn this spring. It looks like good corn ground if we have the weather for it.

"Fishermen worked the refuge area hard on opening day, but not many have been in since that time. The catch was pretty good in the refuge."—Game Protector Ralph H. Ewing, Polk, April, 1945.

"On April 10 we had a forest fire on Game Lands 86 at Dunn Run. Most of the area was a light burn but on the hillside facing the river it killed almost all vegetation. One grouse nest with 14 eggs was reported destroyed by the fire.

"Beavers are getting so numerous in Warren County that complaints are coming in every day. They are plugging up railroad culverts, flooding highways and pasture land for farmers. Although a large number were trapped during the season, it seems that they were not removed from the right places.

"This morning I rescued a robin that had a cord fastened about its leg. It was caught in a hawthorne bush. Probably the bird was taking the cord to build its nest."—Game Protector George H. Burdick, Tidioute, April, 1945.

---

"Last summer it was necessary to eliminate a beaver dam located on a farm near Cambridge Springs. All the beavers were trapped except one big fellow that the basket traps would not hold. The dam was removed from the creek and each time the remaining beaver attempted to rebuild, it was torn out until he gave up rebuilding.

"He lived in the bank all summer even though the creek dried up except for one small puddle a couple of inches deep near where he lived. He cut aspen in the vicinity for food and seemed to manage all right as a dry land animal.

---

## HUNTERS YOU KNEW

AIDLESS ARNOLD

When Arnold Bunting
Packed to go hunting,
One item he'd loudly omit.
He'd start to fume:
He had no room
To pack a first-aid kit.
Though excuses he made,
He was really afraid
Of the sting of iodine!
So he had no protection
When he got that infection
From the quill of a porcupine.

CARSTEN AHRENS.

LETTERS FROM HUNTERS—

"I see you want unusual stories so I will tell you about the close call I had with a buck.

"I jumped three deer on top of the hill and one circled and went around the ledge. I thought it might be a buck. I followed the track about a block and stood between two small trees where I had a good view for a couple of hundred yards in each direction. About twenty minutes later I heard something moving. As the noise became louder it sounded as if a herd of elephants were coming. The leaves and ice were frozen and crusted. I was so nervous I turned around about ten times before I decided the noise came from the direction the tracks were going. Then coming toward me I saw the buck.

"He was nibbling on brush and came within fifty feet of me. I had a 12 gauge shotgun and when I fired the deer jumped fifteen feet right toward me. I fell back in the rocks and he went right between the two trees where I was standing. As he was coming I thought of all the things I shouldn't have done in my life. He went down and up and I heard him bouncing in the briars.

"I got up, waited about twenty minutes until my heart got back to normal, then I walked toward the spot I had last seen him. There stood a 14-point buck looking at me. As he jumped and started running I saw the other buck lying there. It weighed 120 pounds. Never again will I stand in the tracks of deer on a runway."—Buster Meyer, Lookout, Pa.

---

## WHITEWASHED!

Ducks Unlimited announced recently that they had whitewashed the feathered outcast previously known as the coot or mudhen by giving it the new name of Whitebill. This bird had long been frowned upon by wildfowlers not knowing its real gustatorial worth.

The Whitebill's dinner table value is indicated by a laboratory analyses of hundreds of the birds collected in practically all parts of their continental range. The analyses showed the Whitebill to be nine-tenths vegetarian. Its food consists mainly of pondweeds, wild celery, sedges, algae and grasses.

This bird, a member of the rail family, has increased disproportionately and now is the third most plentiful waterfowl on the continent, ranking next to the mallard and pintail.

---

**Recipe for Breast of Whitebill on Toast**

Sprinkle lemon juice on halves of breasts. Season well with salt, black and red pepper. Broil on greased or buttered pan under moderate fire until tender. Serve on toast.

**Roast Whitebill**

Skin birds, retaining the breasts, gizzards and legs, leaving legs in one piece attached to each other at the backbone. Clean all pieces thoroughly, especially gizzards. Cover bottom of a rather shallow pan with a layer of sliced apples, on top of which place a layer of meat and then another layer of sliced apples. Finish off on top with a layer of sliced side pork. Season meat moderately with salt and pepper. Fill pan about three-quarters full of water and roast in a medium oven.

**Whitebill a la Creole**

Season Whitebill breasts well with salt, black and red pepper. Brown on both sides in a small amount of fat in a skillet or chicken fryer. Remove meat. Brown one large chopped onion and two tablespoons chopped celery in same fat. Return breasts to fryer, add hot water to make a gravy. Cover and allow to simmer until meat is very tender. Serve with rice, mashed potatoes or other vegetables.

# The Future of Pen-Reared Quail

(From Page 3)

There is little cover left here. Compare with adjoining strip of standing corn.

Any quail would welcome this home—two meals a day and a warm protected roost.

survival of a species decimated to a very few members. On the other hand if the remnant is large, then under a sound system of management it, being native to the area, should stand a better chance of increasing to a normal population than would exotic strains, either naturally-reared or pen-reared.

The transplanting of wild stock is a method that dates back to ancient times. Its success is attested by the presence of such exotic species as ring-necked pheasants and Hungarian partridges on this continent. But for every such implantation that has succeeded, there are probably hundreds that have failed, primarily because of some radical difference in environment, either climate, food supply, soil fertility, or some other factor, that has made acclimatization difficult if not impossible. This method therefore can be very expensive, not only from the trapping and transportation angle, but also from the standpoint of overall results. The possibility of transmission of disease to native species must also be given serious consideration.

The big factor in favor of this second method is that the birds have been hatched and reared under natural conditions and so are more at home in the wild than would birds raised under artificial conditions. Right from the beginning of their implantation the former are alert to danger, adept at foiling predators, and skillful at foraging for food scattered over a wide range, whereas the latter are unprepared for such a radically different environment and therefore require a period of adjustment.

The third method, that of liberating pen-reared stock, is an innovation of the present generation. Bobwhites are amenable to large-scale rearing in captivity. The earliest record of pen-rearing of quail is that by Henry Benbrook in 1877 and published in *Forest and Stream,* May 5, 1881. Up through the first decade of the twentieth century, quail were hatched with bantam hens. About 1910 A. F. Rolf and F. H. Stonebum, of the Connecticut Agricultural College, hatched and reared bobwhites successfully in lamp heated incubators and brooders. Nineteen years later, William Coleman of Virginia pioneered in electrical equipment for the propagation of quail.

This method has rapidly developed into a popular but small industry throughout the country, so that in 1940 there were over 700 licensed private propagators of quail. In that year more than 325,000 bobwhites were raised on state farms or on private farms in cooperation with the states. Two arguments presented in favor of this third method are that (1) quail can be raised in captivity easily and economically, and (2) such birds when liberated can establish a large quail population on badly depleted or totally depopulated areas in a minimum of time.

### *Critical Evaluation of Pen-Reared Quail*

After an active campaign throughout at least twenty years to restock depleted quail coverts with birds propagated in captivity, many game managers are now of the opinion that this enterprise has been largely unsuccessful, and that widespread and indiscriminate activity of such a sort should be discontinued. This viewpoint against the liberation of pen-reared quail has been presented in several published articles, which have been summarized effectively in a 1942 report of the Texas Game and Oyster Commission. The conclusions in this report are based primarily on the testimony of a number of authorities including F. M. Baumgartner of the Oklahoma A. and M. College, L. F. Selko of the Oklahoma Game Commission, A. L. Clark of the Division of Fish, Game, and Forests for Missouri, I. N. Gabrielson, Director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, H. L. Stoddard, author of "The Bobwhite Quail," W. P. Taylor of the Texas Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, and R. Gerstell of the Pennsylvania Game Commission. A brief digest of this report has been published by the Missouri Conservation Commission (1944) and reprinted by the Western States and American Pheasant Societies (1944).

The growing sentiment against wholesale liberation of pen-reared bobwhites is expressed succinctly in the following statement quoted from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

"We believe there has been an unfortunate over-emphasis of the importance of gamebird stocking and artificial propagation as a means for increasing supplies of shootable game. This activity has frequently been carried on with little attention given to the adequacy of food and cover on the range where the liberations were to be made, or *to the suitability of the birds liberated for survival under wild conditions.* (Italics ours) Failures in most instances were inevitable. Adequate protection has rarely been provided for the birds released. Not infrequently the birds have been subjected to hunting shortly after liberation. Where restocking has been carried on to improve hunting conditions immediately, the hunters' bag the first season has been found to contain anywhere from 4 to 33 percent of the birds released and very few are bagged the second season. The great majority of the birds stocked have been found to disappear rapidly from the area where liberated. *Because the birds are abnormally tame, many undoubtedly are taken by predators, while some are lost through exposure, and others simply wander away.* (Italics ours)"

This plea for attention to the adequacy of food and cover where liberations are to be made and also for cessation of local hunting until introduced stock has had an opportunity to become firmly established and to produce a shootable surplus, demands careful consideration. Probably close compliance with these two factors would eliminate much of the failure and waste that has attended restocking programs. In addition, however, it appears logical to give critical scrutiny to the third factor mentioned in the above given quotation, namely, the suitability of the bird itself, that may have a fundamental bearing upon the success or failure of implantations with pen-reared bobwhites. Bennett (1943) is so cognizant of

this factor's importance that he has issued the following warning to conservationists:

"The stocking of quail can be a precarious undertaking. If you do not know the quality of birds that you are buying, it is advisable to go slow the first year or so. *Quail good for restocking purposes are difficult to obtain.* (Italics ours) Time after time I have seen artificially produced quail head for the nearest barnyard as soon as they are released. On other occasions I have seen released bevies boldly stroll to their doom by walking nonchalantly up to within striking distance of skunks, cats, and dogs. Birds with traits such as these do not bring about the desired results.

"Birds for restocking should be healthy, vigorous, and wary. They should at least have some idea as to what is good for them and what is dangerous. Spending money on birds other than this type is throwing money to the winds. *There are far more poor birds for restocking than there are good ones.* (Italics ours)"

Do current practices in the propagation of bobwhite quail produce any birds capable of survival when liberated in the wild? Can pen-reared quail adapt themselves at all to adverse natural conditions when freed? If the answer to both questions is negative, then what methods of propagation can be employed in order to produce a bird suitable for liberation?

The one outstanding checked experiment that has come to the authors' attention is that conducted by Frye (1942) on the University of Florida Conservation Reserve at Welaka, Florida. Between August 24 and October 25, 1939, equal numbers of banded pen-reared and wild quail, or a total of 166 birds, were liberated together in twenty-two groups. The results obtained by monthly trappings of all birds and constant observations on them through February 7, 1940 indicated to Frye "*an approximate equality of survival* between the wild and pen-reared birds." (Italics ours) This deduction is contrary to the growing convictions regarding artificially propagated stock. Frye, however, defends his experiment skillfully and concludes "that the data from trapping represent essentially the true situation regarding the comparative survival of wild and pen-reared birds in this study."

Unfortunately, far too little controlled research has been done on the subject to permit a conservationist to evaluate properly pen-reared quail in the conservation program. Environmental factors being similar, seemingly native quail would be better able to survive than liberated pen-reared birds. However, as has been pointed out before, the natural recovery of a badly decimated native population is a rather slow process. If a rapid growth of population is desired, new stock must be introduced. Regarding the transfer of wild birds to a depleted area, the cost of procedure in relationship to the final results should be compared with like figures obtained from restocking with pen-reared birds. The need for more immediate controlled research on this problem is apparent. If pen-reared quail are worthless for restocking under any method of propagation and management, the public should know the facts so that state and private funds can be diverted to more worthy and compensative enterprise.

Undoubtedly pressure for the propagation of quail in captivity for liberations will continue despite unfavorable evidence, in order to supply an abundance of targets for gunners during hunting season if for no better reason. True sportsmen, however, would rather have as their prize an agile, alert wild creature that will challenge their mettle as hunters, than a tame "barnyard"-type fowl submissive to attack. Therefore, regardless of the ultimate fate of gamebird propagation it would seem a worthy objective for the near future to discover if methods of propagation will produce pen-reared quail that will be good game, as well as suitable progenitors of a population in the wild.

### *Improvement of Pen-Reared Quail*

There appear to be four important factors involved in the solution of this problem, namely, (1) selection of breeders, (2) hardening of birds to be liberated, (3) feeding of birds to be liberated, and (4) time, place, and method of liberation. A change may be necessary in any or all of these factors in order to produce a pen-reared quail that equals a naturally-reared one. In the selection of breeders (Factor 1), there is a possibility that gamebird propagators are breeding away from wildness in their endeavor to obtain hardy, heavy birds with good reproductive qualities. Through such selection they may be domesticating the quail. Some propagators have sensed this situation and have attempted to maintain wildness in their stock by the periodical introduction of wild males.

According to physiological studies by Gerstell and Long (1939) on wild turkeys "wildness is not only the result of parental education, association with other individuals, and reactions to environmental stimuli, but also of hereditary factors." While it is pointed out that "The degree of physiological distinction between two closely related groups of wild birds is obviously difficult to measure, nevertheless, it is concluded that the wild-mated poults are more suitable for restocking turkey ranges and better fitted to meet present-day recreational requirements than the game farm birds, simply because the former represent a physiological strain, which is somewhat different from the latter with respect to environmental reactions and functional properties."

Leopold (1944) after five-years of field work with turkeys in the Ozark region of Missouri concurs with Gerstell and Long on the inheritance of wildness and discusses various points of distinction that appear to be connected with relative wildness and domesticity. These include wariness and tolerance of disturbance, precocity, tuning of breeding cycle, reaction to danger, molt in young stock, and the relative size of brain and some of the endocrine glands. Regarding the last mentioned point, Nagel (1944) under the startling title "Are we taking the 'wild' out of wildlife?" discusses the illuminating work of Dr. George Crile who dissected many wild and domestic creatures in a study of their physical differences. Dr. Crile found that domestic birds and mammals as a group possess appreciably smaller brains, thyroids, and adrenal glands than the corresponding wild forms, and concluded that propagators, in their desire to increase reproduction, breed for tranquility rather than temperment, and thereby unwittingly produce a smaller brain and adrenal-sympathetic system in their wards.

Undoubtedly management of the stock to be liberated (Factor 2) is very important in its effect on the wariness and hardiness of quail. No more should one expect a bird that has been safeguarded, carefully sheltered, and well-fed with commercial feeds, to adjust itself quickly and successfully to a

*(Continued on Page 30)*

**Intensively cultivated areas offer no cover for wildlife. Compare with adjoining photo.**

**Good food plots adjacent to brushy cover may mean the difference between success and failure of quail releases.**

# Transactions of Commission Meeting May 2, 1945

(From Page 7)

A group of the raccoons which the Washington County 'Coon Hunters Association released on February 25, 1945, to increase their sport in their part of the Commonwealth.

stock made this Spring revealed some very interesting facts, one of which showed that during recent years the northern portion of their range was more favorable to the birds than territory heretofore looked upon as good turkey sections. This is the first fairly complete inventory since 1919. Briefly, it revealed a total of 465 flocks having 3,836 birds at the start of the winter and 3,615 as of March 15, the average size of the flocks this spring being 7.8. Of the above, 436 flocks were fed and 29 survived without feeding.

*Game Kill*—The first tabulation of the 1944 game kill showed that 76.5% of the 605,781 licenses reported, which in view of war conditions, showed excellent cooperation on the part of the hunters. The first tabulation in 1941 covered 85%; 1942, 81%; 1943, 79.5%. Final results will be published later.

*Migratory Bird Seasons*—The Commission recommended to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service the following migratory bird seasons for Pennsylvania:

*Waterfowl*—October 1 to January 1, inclusive, and the consolidation of the northern and intermediate zones with fixed shooting hours.

*Woodcock*—October 10 to November 3, inclusive, the season to start October 10 regardless of the length thereof.

*Doves*—During the regular upland game season, tentatively agreed upon November 1 to November 30 inclusive, throughout the entire Commonwealth in compliance with resolution of the General Assembly and recommendations of the Federated Sportsmen's Clubs.

*Resignations*—It was with considerable regret that the Commission accepted the resignations of Allan T. Studholme, Acting Chief of the Division of Propagation and Research; Kenneth M. Brenneman, Superintendent of the Jordan Game Farm; Game Protector Frank L. Coen, New Castle; Mildred M. Jaffe, Title Clerk in the Division of Lands; and Muriel G. Shugart, General Clerk in the Division of Land Management.

*Military Leaves*—Military leaves were approved for Game Protectors James A. Osman, Mansfield; Clyde W. Decker, Clearfield; George L. Norris, North Warren; and Raymond Morningstar, R. D. 2, Huntingdon.

*Reinstatements*—The Commission welcomed two returning servicemen and reinstated them as follows: Game Protectors Clifford L. Ruth, of Hibbs, and John I. Hendricks, Sunbury.

*Game Law Information*—The wisdom of delaying the printing of the summary of important game law information to be issued with the hunters' licenses until seasons on migratory birds become available was discussed, and it was agreed that such information shall be printed in the summary if possible, otherwise it will be supplied on a separate sheet.

*Refunds*—One refund was granted in a case which, through misunderstanding, a hunter purchased his own non-resident license and a friend also purchased one for him, the Department of Revenue having recommended the refund of one fee.

Another was granted a youth 14 years of age who was apprehended for hunting without a resident license because the facts later disclosed clearly showed that while he did not possess a license he was not actually hunting at the time.

*License Restorations*—The hunting privileges of three individuals were restored because more complete facts indicated that action originally taken had been too severe under the circumstances.

*License Seizures*—Four license seizures were approved for various infractions of the game laws deemed severe enough to warrant such drastic actions.

*License Revocations*—The hunting privileges of 197 persons were revoked by the Game Commission, mostly for one and two years, the possession of game and fur-bearing animals during the closed season being the principal offenses. Numerous cases involved the illegal possession of venison. Many others included carrying loaded guns in automobiles and spotlighting deer.

The hunting privileges of four other persons were also denied by the courts for 2, 4, 5, and 10 years for serious infractions of the game law, the latter two for wounding a human being in mistake for a groundhog and killing a person in mistake for game.

While these penalties may seem severe they are the only means of combating the element of carelessness which is all too prevalent among certain indifferent or overenthusiastic gunners.

*Rights-of-Way*—Three licenses for rights-of-way on State Game Lands in various parts of the Commonwealth were granted for telegraph and telephone service and the transporting by pipe-line of petroleum, gas and petroleum products.

*Land Acquisition*—Six options for land purchase were approved subject to exceptions and reservations of one kind or another. The area involved totalled more than 700 acres.

Options on 5 prospective purchases, involving over 4,000 acres, were postponed pending further study.

One exchange of 33 acres of Game Lands for 55 acres of privately owned territory was approved because the transaction will shorten the Commission's boundary line by approximately 2900 feet, thereby reducing future maintenance costs. A general policy prohibits the exchange of lands unless they will be advantageous to the Commonwealth.

*New Propagation Area*—The Commission entered into an agreement with the State Historical Commission to establish a propagation area on the Daniel Boone Homestead in Berks County for the purpose of trapping and transferring surplus game for restocking purposes. No hunting, trapping or use of dogs will be permitted except as may be necessary to accomplish the objective. The fishing rights on the area will be controlled by the Historical Commission and have no bearing on the Commission's agreement.

*Special Land Management Assistant*—In an effort to encourage farm-game cooperators and other landowners to establish farm practices which will be mutually beneficial to agriculture as well as wildlife, the Commission approved the employment of a soil conservation specialist. It will be this employee's job to contact all landowners in the farm-game project areas and help them plan their future farm programs to the best advantage for themselves as well as wildlife.

*Sales from Game Lands*—The plan recently in effect for handling small sales of materials from State Game Lands not having worked out satisfactorily for various reasons, it was agreed that the plan previously in operation, under which officers on the ground are authorized to make cash sales for materials up to $25.00 shall again become operative for all forest products, but that no other materials shall be disposed of unless approval has been obtained in advance for each sale.

*Special Fox Hunting Petitions*—The Commission certified for the record the following special fox hunting season petitions, all of which had been duly filed and advertised according to law, the closed period in each case to be as below indicated:

| *County* | *Date Filed* | *Adv. Completed Pet. Notified* | *Closed Period* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Beaver | Mar. 5, 1945 | Apr. 2, 1945 | May 2-June 30 |
| Butler | Jan. 24, 1945 | Mar. 29, 1945 | " |
| Erie | Mar. 12, 1945 | Apr. 11, 1945 | " |
| Lancaster | Mar. 2, 1945 | Apr. 2, 1945 | " |
| Susquehanna | Jan. 18, 1946 | Apr. 2, 1945 | " |
| York | Mar. 7, 1945 | Apr. 13, 1945 | " |

Additional petitions are pending in Lebanon, Perry and Westmoreland Counties, which if completed, will be certified at a later date.

*Nursery*—The Commission plans to explore the possibility of establishing a nursery for growing food-bearing trees, shrubs, and other plants for wildlife between now and the next meeting.

*Inspection*—After reconvening the following morning and conferring on various problems, the Commission inspected lands which are available for purchase in Monroe County.

*Next Meeting*—The Commission set June 28 as the date for its next meeting with a conference the previous afternoon at the Penn Harris Hotel, Harrisburg, with the officers and Directors of the Federated Sportsmen's Clubs, the Izaak Walton League Division, and other interested persons invited for the purpose of considering seasons, bag limits, and other matters which should be discussed at that time.

## Important Notice to Personnel of the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard Overseas

**According to Order No. 27851 issued by the Postmaster General May 1, 1945 single copies of newspapers and magazines addressed to Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard personnel overseas will not be accepted unless they are being sent in fulfilment of the written request of the addressee for subscription or renewal of subscription.**

**Postmasters shall require publishers to show the written requests; and relatives and friends may pay for subscriptions or renewals only if the addressee has requested it.**

**The post offices will not accept any complimentary copies, copies paid for by advertisers or any arrangement by which the written request is solicited.**

**Subscriptions now being mailed will be continued until the subscription has expired, but such copies will be returned to the publisher unless they are marked, "Mailed in conformity with P.O.D. Order No. 27851."**

A muskrat (musquash) can travel as far as 50 yards under the water without coming up for air. His fur is nearly as fine and dense as that of a beaver. When treated and dyed it may be known as Hudson Seal, Wallaby, Velvet Coney, River Mink, Sealskin and a number of other trade names.

* * * * *

The outlook is good for seeds, fertilizers and insecticides for 1945 Victory gardens.

**The Armstrong Hunting and Fishing Club, Kittanning, probably has the largest lighted rifle range in the eastern part of the United States. Above are some enthusiastic members enjoying a night shoot.**

## EVEN POISONOUS SNAKES HAVE ENEMIES

*(Continued from Page 8)*

tween snakes. The ability of the various kinds of king snakes to kill poisonous serpents is known to most people. Presumably they are immune to the venom of the pit vipers—rattlers, copperheads, and moccasins. They are not continually spoiling for fights with venomous snakes, as some popular accounts have it, but will kill and eat them if they come upon them when hungry. These snakes are powerful constrictors and can easily subdue serpentine prey.

The indigo snake and the racers—black racers, red racers, coachwhips, and other species—are just as prone to eat poisonous snakes as are the king snakes. These species are not constrictors and have no way of killing poisonous prey before eating it, but it doesn't prevent them from enjoying a meal of this kind. Their technique is to fence until an opening is presented and then grab the victim by the side of its head. The strong jaws gradually are worked around to the front and the snake is then swallowed alive.

Weasels and badgers are reputed to be reptile eaters, and in South America there is a skunk which feeds largely on snakes. There is some evidence that certain species of North American skunks also may eat poisonous snakes. Serpents of this type also are sometimes the victims of turtles and of the more voracious fish, and some strains of domestic goats are said to attack snakes much as do the deer.

In short, the poisonous snake's life is certainly no bed of roses—he is killed because he is liked and because he is disliked.

## CLUB NOTES

The Clinton County Fish and Game Association really "brought home the bacon" in the form of GAME NEWS subscriptions.

During April the Club sent in 528 one-year subscriptions which is, needless to say, quite a record.

Probably the largest lighted rifle range in the eastern United States is owned and operated by the Armstrong County Hunting and Fishing Club. This range has 50 firing points of 50 and 100 yards, and an illumination of nearly 100 fc. There are also 10 lighted bullseye pistol targets, running man lighted with 25 yard running place, and lighted combat and "bobber" targets. The skeet target will be lighted as soon as shells and pigeons are available.

This enterprising club owns about 110 acres of land which are used for refuges, rifle ranges, pistol ranges, trap field, skeet field, club buildings, tree plantings and general recreational grounds for picnics. It has excellent indoor rifle and pistol ranges; the rifle team places well in the upper bracket of the NRA matches. Rifle and pistol pre-induction schools were conducted continual'

The club is also active in combatting objectionable legislation, in stocking the streams with fish, in sponsoring rifle courses for the local high school students, in Boy Scout work and in civic affairs including the blood donor campaign.

# The Future of Pen-Reared Quail

(From Page 27)

new situation where danger abounds, only natural shelter exists, and the only food consists of unfamiliar seeds hidden under leaf and grass—than one would expect a city-reared bookkeeper to become quickly acclimated to army life in jungle warfare without a previous period of adjustment. Even as army-recruits from all walks of life are prepared through an intensive program of training and hardening, for the rigors of campaigns in an environment radically different from that at home, so apparently must pen-reared quail be acclimatized for life in the wild. Perhaps large pens for hardening the birds prior to liberation are necessary for giving the creatures opportunity to strengthen their wings and become accustomed to natural cover for shelter. Such pens are used for pheasants, why not for bobwhites!

Frye (1942), in his experiment discussed earlier in this article, hardened his pen-reared stock from the sixth week of age to the time of liberation in unsheltered wire pens, in contact with soil and growing vegetation, *"This final stage of the rearing procedure with its attempt at simulation of field conditions, was intended to partially adjust the birds to a wild existence and might have influenced considerably their survival after release."*

Regarding feeding (Factor 3), it might be a good policy to introduce whole seeds of locally-grown nutritive quail-foods, such as Wilson soybeans, vetch, and lespedeza, to the pen-reared birds several weeks before liberation, in order to acquaint the birds with the food they will have to eat afterwards. The importance of this factor in liberations of pheasants has been recognized by the Wisconsin Conservation Department. Hein (1944) writes of studies now being conducted in that state to determine if acquainting pheasants with natural foods prior to liberation will not give them a better chance to become adjusted to the wild when freed.

However, even though by means of proper breeding, management, and feeding, a pen-reared quail is obtained that matches the naturally-reared bobwhite in ability to survive vicissitudes and hardships of the wild, that achievement will not in itself solve the problem. Gerstell (1942) established the fact that of the gallinaceous upland game-birds, "bobwhite quail is the only species which suffers serious decimation because of the lack of winter foods." He found that "quail are highly susceptible to nutritive shortages and to cold, while their ability to resist both is largely dependent upon covey size." The senior author has found from experiments now in progress at Patuxent Research Refuge (unpublished data) that mature quail died from malnutrition within two to three weeks on a nutritious, palatable diet lacking in only one factor, Vitamin A (or its precursor, carotene)! Therefore (Factor 4) from what is now known it can be stated that quail should be released in groups of at least 10 birds each (a group of fifteen is recommended), during clear weather, when the ground is free of snow. In the immediate vicinity there should be adequate escape cover, such as brushy fence rows, and ungrazed wood lots, food plots that provide both abundant nutriment (especially high caloric foods such as the cereals, and good sources of carotene such as *yellow* corn) and cover through fall and winter under a plan of restricted special use, and finally suitable shelters from heavy and prolonged storms. Perhaps, as has been indicated by Frye's work, it would be desirable to release a few trapped wild quail along with the pen-reared stock to serve as leaders or instructors.

### *Four Conditions of Research*

The research worker is able to study the problem of pen-reared quail under four types of conditions, namely, (1) laboratory or close-confinement, (2) large enclosures or semi-confinement, (3) open partially-controlled areas, and (4) islands. Comparisons of pen-reared and wild quail under laboratory conditions, and also in semi-confinement are open to criticism on the grounds that such studies are conducted in an unnatural environment. It has been pointed out that the subjects, especially wild birds, cannot be expected to respond to stimuli in confinement as they would in the open. Although such a criticism is valid, it should be recognized that laboratory studies are primarily a means to an end, not the end-product. The clues obtained in the laboratory are intended to serve as a guide for field-investigations. It is *in the field* that the final answer will be found.

Laboratory studies on the pen-reared quail have been initiated by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, and a report is to be published shortly on results. Likewise the relative merits of controlled field studies in semi-confinement, on special open areas, and on islands, for the solution of the problem presented herein, as well as kindred conservation problems, will be discussed in another article which will also be issued soon, in order to promote to a greater degree in the post-war period this type of necessary research in wildlife conservation.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY


ALBRECHT, WILLIAM A.
1944. Soil Fertility and Wildlife—Cause and Effect. Trans. of 9th N. A. Wildlife Conference, Am. Wild. Inst. Washington, D. C. pp. 19-28, illus.

BENNETT, LOGAN J.
1943. Restocking Your Ranges. American Field 139(14), p. 451.

DENNY, ARTHUR H.
1944. Wildlife Relationships to Soil Types. Trans. of 9th N. A. Wildlife Conference, Am. Wild. Inst. Washington, D. C. pp. 316-323.

FRYE, O. EARLE, JR.
1942. The Comparative Survival of Wild and Pen-reared Bobwhite in the Field, Trans. 7th N. A. Wildlife Conf. Am. Wildlife Inst. Washington, D. C. pp. 168-178.

GAME, FISH, AND OYSTER COMMISSION OF TEXAS, DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESTORATION
1942. The Propriety of Attempting to Restore Bobwhite Quail in Texas by Raising Quail in Pens for Release in the Wild. Mimeo. Bul.

GERSTELL, RICHARD
1942. The Place of Winter Feeding in Practical Wildlife Management. Res. Bul. No. 3, Penn. Game Comm. 121 pp., illus.

GERSTALL, RICHARD AND LONG, WILLIAM H.
1939. Physiological Variations in Wild Turkeys and Their Significance in Management. Res. Bul. No. 2, Penn. Game Comm. 60 pp., illus.

HEIN, EDWARD N.
1944. Pheasant Weaning. Conserv. Bul., 9(8-9) Wisc. Conserv. Dept. Madison. p. 16.

LEOPOLD, A. STARKER
1944. The Nature of Heritable Wildness in Turkeys. The Condor. 46(4), pp. 133-197.

MISSOURI CONSERVATION COMMISSION
1944. Texas Reports Adversely on Pen-reared Quail. The Missouri Conservationist 5(7), p. 13 (Reprint: Modern Game Breeding and Hunting Club News, 14[11], p. 10).

NAGEL, W. O.
1944. Are We Taking the "Wild" Out of Wildlife. The Missouri Conservationist 5(11), pp. 2, 3, 14, 15.

NESTLER, RALPH B. and NELSON, ARNOLD L.
1945. Inbreeding Among Pen-reared Quail. The Auk. 62(2), pp. 217-222.

**An excellent release site—islands of good cover adjacent to feeding and nesting areas.**

# Take It Easy, Hunter

(From Page 5)

going if you can. Don't waste breath or energy shouting. Two or three rapid shots from your rifle is a recognized distress signal. And after you have stumbled unexpectedly on to camp or when one of your crowd has found you as a result of your signals (and has, of course, kidded you unmercifully), REMEMBER the next time you leave camp to look around for nearby landmarks: a high, blasted pine, dark granite cliff, a peculiarly-shaped spruce—some thing or things that you know can point the way home. If you go out from camp alone break off twigs every so often as you go along. When you make a camp or come to a cabin for the first time, locate it on the map, if you can get one, and identify its location geographically with recognized features of the surrounding country that are charted—such as a high mountain, lake, river or big stream. Always carry matches with you in some moisture-proof container AND a compass. If you have forgotten the matches and if the sun is shining you can get a blaze going by focussing the sun's rays on some lint (pulled from shirt or coat) or paper through your watch crystal or eye-piece of your field-glasses.

**It is most disconcerting to meet his own tracks.**

Go into the woods PREPARED; you are a better sportsman and hunter for this. It is not necessarily a sign of a mighty hunter and woodsman to go into the wilderness with Spartan equipment. You do not have to exert your body to its utmost, endure cold, wet clothing and other discomforts to display your prowess as a Nimrod. In fact, if you have the transportation and if it does not put an unfair burden on others, take in with you all the comforts within reason. Certainly take enough to give you a complete change of clothes in case you fall in the stream or get drenched in a downpour. You are out hunting for fun, aren't you? Well, make it a pleasure. Take it easy, hunter.

# Highlights of Proposed Federal Legislation

(From Page 15)

operation could be only with actual farmers. Under this bill this enables the cooperation to extend to all landowners.

H.R. 2383. Mr. Randolph (West Virginia). Authorizes the payment of 25 percent of the national-forest receipts to the States (and counties) in which such forests are situated.

S. 780. Senator Brewster, Maine; Senator Russell, Georgia; Senator Morse, Oregon. Provides for forest products laboratories, one in the northeast, one in the northwest and one in the south for the purpose of conducting investigations, studies and experiments relating to reforestation and forest conservation, timber mechanics and physics, the development of new uses for forest products and reduction of waste. This bill aims at more research and the practical application of the conclusions reached through study and experimentation.

S. 868. Senator Cordon (Oregon). Authorizes payments in lieu of taxes to the States on the fair value of the national-forest lands situated therein. (See also H.R. 2383 and H.R. 2868.)

S. 893. Senators Brewster (Maine), Russell (Georgia), Morse (Oregon) and Chavez (New Mexico). Provides for establishing regional forest products laboratories in the northeastern, northwestern, southwestern and southeastern regions of the United States for conducting research into better methods and outlets for forest products, by-products and wood wastes. Similar bills (S. 780 and H.R. 585) have also been introduced. A companion measure, H.R. 2867 by Mr. Colmer (Mississippi) was also introduced.

### Flood Control

S. 35. Senator Bailey. Provides for rivers and harbors improvement. This bill is a departure from other rivers and harbors bills. It sets out a policy of Congress by declaring that Congress recognizes the interests and rights of the state in determining the development of watersheds within their borders and likewise their interests and rights in water use and control, and to limit the authorization and construction of navigation will be realized therefrom and which can be operated consistently with appropriate and economic use of the waters of such rivers by other users.

### Conservation Lands

S. 111. Senators Hatch and Hayden. Sets up the method for determining the payments to be made by the United States to the several states with respect to conservation lands administered by the Department of Agriculture. The term "Conservation lands" includes among others "forest lands." 25 percent of the receipts from these lands are to be paid to the states in which said land is situated and to be apportioned to the counties of the states as their interest appears.

H.R. 664. Mr. Colmer (Mississippi). Substantially the same as the above.

### Reclamation

H.R. 2569. Mr. Abernethy (Mississippi). This is a substitute bill for H.R. 1864 by the same author. The new bill provides for improved agricultural land utilization by assisting in the rehabilitation and construction of drainage works in the United States. It leaves out the words "in the humid areas of the United States" and sets up the machinery to start a vast drainage program wherever there are wet and swampy lands. There are no safeguards for wildlife nor is conservation of wildlife species mentioned.

### Water Pollution Control

Five bills, S. 330 by Senators White and Brewster; H. R. 519 Mr. Mundt (South Dakota); H. R. 587 by Mrs. Smith (Maine); H. R. 592 by Mr. Spence (Kentucky) and S. 535 by Senator Myers (Pennsylvania), all provide for the creation of an Administrative Commission or National Board whose function it will be to control water pollution and to conserve waters and promote their use for public water supplies, propagation of fish and aquatic life, recreational purposes, agricultural, industrial and other legitimate uses. The discharge of sewage, industrial waste or deleterious substances, which affect the purity of the waters, shall also be investigated.

### National Parks

S. 67 Senator Hayden. Provides that 25% of all revenues derived from the collection of fees from visitors to areas under the administration of the National Park Service shall be paid to the state or states in which the fees are collected. Said 25% shall be expended for the benefit of the county or counties in which such area is situated. However, no county shall receive an amount in excess of 40 percent of the revenues it receives from all other sources during any one year.

S. 923. Senator McCarran (Nevada). Provides for the creation of a Natural Resources Board to be composed of the Secretaries of the Interior, War, Agriculture, Commerce, and seven individuals to be appointed by the President, with advice and consent of the Senate. The Board is required to conduct studies and surveys for the purpose of obtaining data regarding the natural resources of the United States and to formulate and recommend plans for conservation, development and utilization of such natural resources.

H. R. 3040. Mr. Harless (Arizona). Identical bill to S. 913, which see above.

---

Six hundred million pounds of seafood are caught by New England fishermen in a normal year . . . 85% of this consisting of only ten species.

---

An Ohio hunter, who violated the migratory bird regulations by killing 28 ducks in one morning, recently paid a fine which amounted to $17.80 per duck. Ducks fly high . . . but sometimes they are "high" in price.

# The Use and Care of Binoculars

(From Page 9)

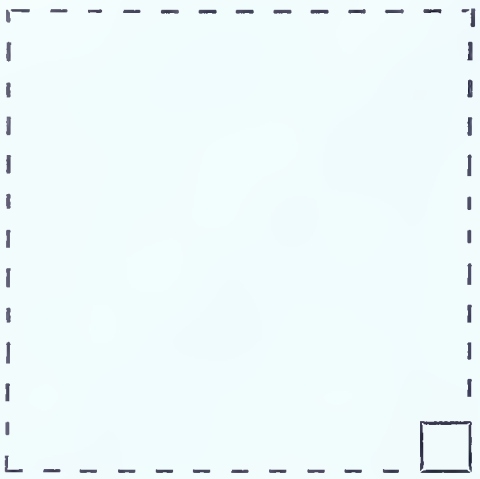


Fig. 3. Small square represents object seen with naked eye; large square, same object as seen through 8 X binoculars.

to keep them that way. To begin with, when not in use, a binocular should be kept in the leather case and the case kept closed. If binoculars lie around uncovered, there is just that much more chance of dust or moisture getting in; and if they lie around continually in misty weather, the moisture will eventually penetrate and cause a "fogging" of both lenses and prisms. If kept in the case when not in use, all of this damage may to a large extent be avoided.

Although it is inadvisable for an observer to attempt to clean his binoculars internally, it is important for him to keep the outside surfaces of the lenses perfectly clean. Never use the fingertips on a lens. No matter how clean the hands, there is enough oil in the human skin to cause more or less of a smear. The best way is to breathe on the lenses and then wipe the breath moisture from them with a clean soft handkerchief.

To check the internal cleanliness of a binocular, look at the sky through the rear end. Dirt or "fog" will show up plainly.

The proper care of binoculars is a simple matter and consists chiefly of a few obvious "dont's." Like a watch, a binocular is a highly refined and delicately constructed scientific instrument. Give it the same care you would give a good watch, and it will function accurately over a surprisingly long period.

Bumping or jarring, however, will sooner or later loosen some of the parts, probably the prisms. If the prisms become shifted, even slightly, the glass will be out of alignment. If severe, the binocular will be unusable; if slight, the inaccuracy may not be detected and will cause eye strain. All of which is entirely unnecessary. A good binocular, if given reasonable care and properly adjusted to your eyes, will give you restful vision over long years of continuous use.

*The Function of Binoculars*

There is considerable confusion in the minds of some people as to just what is meant by an 8-power (8 x) binocular. Few realize that it magnifies the scene viewed *64 times*. The explanation is simple.

If you look through your 8 x binocular at a horizontal straight line, that line will appear 8 times as long when seen through the binocular as it does when viewed with a naked eye. A vertical pole, rising from one end of this line, will also appear 8 times longer. Clearly, the total area appears 64 times greater through the binocular than when viewed with the naked eye. (See Figure 3). That is precisely what is meant by "8 X." A straight line is magnified 8 times, or, to put it differently, it appears only one-eighth of the distance away. A magnification of 8 can do neither more nor less.

An observer once complained that through his 8 power binocular he could not read the small print on a very distant sign. When asked whether he thought he could read that sign with the naked eye if he were standing only one-eighth of the distance away, he saw at once that this was impossible, and that it was unreasonable to expect to read it, from where he was standing, by means of an 8 power binocular.

However, the fact that a 16 X binocular magnifies twice as much as an 8 X binocular does not mean that the higher power glass is better for fire observation use. Quite the contrary. Doubling the power greatly reduces the field of view (i.e. the amount of country visible at one time). As you "take in" only ½ as much horizontally and ½ as much vertically, the total area visible is reduced to ¼. (See Figures 4 and 5). This makes it more difficult to "spot" objects, and to keep them within your range of vision while examining them.

Doubling the magnification also reduces the amount of light transmitted to only one-quarter that transmitted by the lower power glass. Therefore, although the object viewed is much larger, it may appear so dim, due to light reduction, as to be less distinct than when viewed with less magnification.

But by far the greatest disadvantage of high power is the increased unsteadiness of the image. Every little vibration of the hand is magnified more. Even if the binocular is held exceptionally steady, the image will probably "jump" or "flicker" so much as to make observance of detail impossible. Even a fire tower will vibrate enough, especially in a high wind, to make a magnification of more than 8 X undesirable.

* * * * *

The benefit that an observer will receive from his binoculars depends upon various factors. To begin with, he must have them properly adjusted to his eyes. He must be sure they are in good condition to start with, exercise reasonable care in keeping them so, and send them in for examination if they appear to him to be out of order. If he observes these simple precautions his binoculars will give him restful vision, and he will find them a great help both in "spotting" suspicious looking objects, and also in identifying their nature more exactly.

Fig. 4. As seen through 8 X binoculars.

Fig. 5. Same, as seen through 16 X binoculars.

## AN UNFORGETTABLE DUCK HUNT

*(Continued from Page 12)*

were soggy wet. The bread was gray from coal dirt, and he squeezed the lot together like a wet sponge. I had an extra one along and that eased the pang of our keen appetites. The wind had increased and it was getting colder, our wet clothing was stiff and uncomfortable, and there were no ducks stirring to warm our chilled blood.

We decided to jack it up about noon time.

Going back we had no trouble, except, we had to wait a long while for a couple trains to move to get across the tracks to our car. We saw six canvas backs flying high, and towards the opposite shore.

I still think it was "good weather for ducks" with emphasis on ducks.

I don't mind getting wet while hunting, I've had plenty of soakings before. Once I hunted turkeys for three days in pouring rain, but I do detest getting wet and dirty like one does in the river. My hands are raw and hurt from the sand which was impossible to keep off. It just feels like I washed them with ground glass in place of sand soap. I cleaned my gun, but my clothing must dry before I find whether the grime will come off.

The canoe is in a worse mess than I ever saw it before.

If I want to have fun again sometime, I think I'll pick a rainy day and wallow in a pig pen—it appeals to my esthetic sense better than does the river, where those dirty sand flats are gobbling up navigable waters.

## THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW

According to Dr. Rudolph Bennitt, who has directed the cooperative quail study inaugurated at the University of Missouri in 1938, Missouri quail hunters averaged 1.59 birds per man hour in 1944.

* * * * *

Once in the air, the clumsy pelican "whose bill holds more than his belly can," is able to fly to a height beyond eyesight's reach.

* * * * *

Old females—not males—are usually the leaders among all herds of African antelopes; the females also stand guard when a herd is resting or feeding.

# PICTORIAL

Photo by Marc J. DeBerti.
Gene Smith, of Brookville, with a beaver aught in Forest County season of 1942.

Some successful Lehigh Countians. Left to right: Maurice Clauser, Richard Groman, Paul Kolson, Wilson Transue and Stephen Matula.

Philip Shively, R. No. 1, Sharpsville, with 175 pound, 11-point buck killed in McKean County last season. It had a 22-inch spread.

This kill was made in Lycoming County in 944 by a Lancaster County club.

Henry E. Kremer, Schuylkill Haven, left, and brothers with 'coons caught in Schuylkill County last November.

Nice 8-point killed in Fayette County by Curtis Rankin, Dunbar.

We'd like to know who made this splendid ox catch.

Sixteen-year-old John Stewart, Jr., Brookville, with nice 6-point taken in Jefferson County last season.

Mrs. Jene Rosenstell, Elders Ridge, with 4-pointer killed in Jefferson County December 4 last year.

DRUMMER THE GROUSE
Shows you the Homes of
Some of Pennsylvania's
Rarest Nesting Birds
DUCK HAWK
PILEATED WOODPECKER
NORTHERN RAVEN
WILD TURKEY

# PENNSYLVANIA Game News

State Library & Museum
DOCUMENTS SECTION

P38.34
1.6
16/4
a.2

July 1945 Ten Cents

# PENNSYLVANIA GAME NEWS

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION, HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

EDWARD MARTIN, GOVERNOR

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

Ross L. Leffler, *President* ..... Pittsburgh
Robert Lamberton, *Vice-President* ..... Franklin
Col. Nicholas Biddle ..... Bethayres
G. I. Phillips ..... Alexandria
Harold Moltz ..... Williamsport
Dr. H. E. Kilgus ..... Brockway
John C. Herman ..... Dauphin
Dr. Carl B. Rosenkrans ..... East Stroudsburg

Administrative Office

Seth Gordon ..... *Executive Director*
R. A. McCachran ..... *Assistant Director*

Division of Lands

W. Gard. Conklin ..... *Chief*

Division of Accounting & Budget

N. E. Slaybaugh ..... *Comptroller*

Division of Public Information

Leo A. Luttringer, Jr. ..... *Chief*
*Editor*, Pennsylvania Game News

Training

W. M. Cramer ..... *Supt. Training School*

Bureau of Field Operations

Division of Law Enforcement

W. C. Shaffer ..... *Chief*

Division of Land Management

James N. Morton ..... *Chief*

Division of Research
(Vacancy)

Propagation & Distribution

Earl S. Greenwood ..... *Acting*

Field Division Supervisors

Division "A"—M. J. Golden, 602 Penn Ave., West Reading, Pa.
Berks, Bucks, Chester, Dauphin, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, York.

Division "B"—Jay C. Gilford, Wyoming Ave. and Welles St., Forty Fort, Pa.
Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming.

Division "C"—Thomas F. Bell, 352 E. 3rd St., Williamsport, Pa.
Bradford, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga, Union.

Division "D"—William J. Davis, 327 Penn St., Huntingdon, Pa.
Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry.

Division "E"—M. E. Sherman, 1 E. Du Bois Ave., Du Bois, Pa.
Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, Potter.

Division "F"—Hayes T. Englert, 14 W. 1st St., 2d Floor, S. S. Oil City, Pa.
Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, Warren.

Division "G"—Rollin Heffelfinger, 405 Main Street, 2d Floor, McClellan Bldg., Irwin, Pa.
Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, Westmoreland.

## HOW TO SUBSCRIBE

RATES—$0.50 per year to residents of Pennsylvania, regardless of address. $1.00 per year for Non-Residents of Pennsylvania. (Out-of-State, District of Columbia, Canadian or Foreign.) Club rates are available to organizations presenting 10 or more subscriptions in a single order. Remittances by check or money order to be made payable to the Department of Revenue, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. CASH FORWARDED AT SENDER'S RISK. STAMPS NOT ACCEPTED. Your local Game Protector, County Treasurer or other Hunting License Issuing Agent will take your subscription; or you may forward it direct to the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.

Please report all changes of address promptly, sending both your old and new addresses.

Please address *all* communications to the Editorial Office.

Publication office, Cameron and Kelker Sts., Harrisburg, Pa.

Executive and editorial office, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.

Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, under Act of March 3, 1879.

Permission to reprint will be granted provided proper credit is given.

Mailed in conformity with P.O.D. Order No. 19687.

VOL. XVI, NO. 4

# EDITORIAL

July, 1945

## IN THIS ISSUE

**Pheasant Stampede**
By Jack Anderson

★

**Soil Conservation Districts**
By Walter C. Gumbel

★

**Shore Patrol**
By J. Rodger Darling

★

**Horse and Buggy Days of the Game Refuge System**
By M. E. Sherman

★

**For the Love of Snakes**
By Bess Hibarger

★

**Hints for Trappers**
By Harold Plasterer

★

**Nature's Dive Bombers**
By Sherman Lee Pruitt

★

**Long-Term Planning**

★

**How Others Are Doing It**
By Elizabeth Cole

★

**Well, What's Wrong?**

★

**Cover "Homecoming"**
By Jacob Bates Abbott

## A Conservation Workshop

Conservationists and educators in Pennsylvania are about to achieve another outstanding objective—the establishment of a laboratory or workshop where teachers can learn how properly to present the message of conservation in the elementary and secondary schools of the Commonwealth.

The event was a long time in the making. It was discussed for the last ten or fifteen years, and the initiative was taken by the Game Commission, the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs and other groups in an endeavor to provide adequate supplementary material for in-service teachers and means of educating teachers in the making. Some ground was gained, but it was very slight because most state conservation agencies were already making their individual contributions to the cause, and attempts to correlate their efforts with those of the Department of Public Instruction and other interested groups were viewed half-heartedly.

On the afternoon of June 26 this year, through the motivating spirit of Mrs. J. Charles Runk, Chairman, Department of Conservation and Gardens, Pennsylvania Federation of Women's Clubs, there was held in the Department of Public Instruction an informal conference of representatives of the various state and federal conservation agencies, representatives of the Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs and the Izaak Walton League, the Pennsylvania State College, and other groups, for the purpose of deciding whether or not a conservation summer school or workshop for teachers was desirable, and if so who should sponsor it and where it should be held. To make a long story short, sentiment was unanimous in favor of such a project, and through preliminary groundwork laid by Mrs. Runk it is entirely likely The Pennsylvania State College will sponsor the initial venture during the summer of 1946 with the understanding that other universities and interested organizations be given an opportunity to cooperate if they so desired.

The school is to be operated on a credit basis and will probably run for six weeks. Its curricula will no doubt include the study of Botany, Zoology, Earth, and Social Sciences, and the course will be made as attractive and as economical as possible.

The informal conference, which later designated itself as an advisory council, appointed an executive committee headed by Dr. Henry Klonower, Director of Teacher Education and Certification in the Department of Public Instruction, who has been interested in the conservation education program for many years.

Dr. Klonower expressed his views on the subject as being one of long-term planning which would ultimately develop into numerous similar outdoor laboratories within the Commonwealth, as well as an elective in all the State Teachers' Colleges.

Plans must still be developed. A brochure will be made available later setting forth such items of interest as cost, instructional staff, length of the workshop, where it will be held, and other essential details.

The future of the program is dependent upon the success of this initial venture, and as a reader of GAME NEWS you can help promote interest in it among the teachers in your community if you will mention it when you meet them, and otherwise boost it whenever you have the opportunity.

From time to time this magazine will carry progress reports for your further information. If you place them in the hands of teachers you think will be interested, news of this opportunity will more rapidly become known by conservation-minded instructors in our public schools. Ohio, Tennessee, West Virginia and other progressive states have instituted such courses. Let Pennsylvania not be found lacking in its obligations.

## WELL, WHAT'S WRONG?

(See Page 29)

# PHEASANT STAMPEDE

By JACK ANDERSON

*Illustrateed by J. B. Abbott*

WE were basking in the sun, chewing tobacco, smoking, lazily watching a waiting locomotive that puffed by our local station. It was Doc Peavy, Sam Jackson, Samson Nimrod, and I, garbed in shreddy hunting outfits that reeked of burning balsam and dogs and sweat (odors the sun thawed out), and also our bird dogs, who were sniffing each other and stopping now and again to prick their ears at the coughing locomotive.

We were damned glad that the locomotive was waiting. It made enough racket so that Samson Nimrod had to pause in his yarn-spinning. He had been successfully hunting pheasants and rabbits all morning; he hadn't, in fact, missed a shot or committed an error; not even the wily ruffed grouse had eluded his super-accurate number sevens; and I, for one (and from the stifled yawns, the others) had grown quite weary. Then—of all things—a stranger got off the train. All of us straightened, and our eyes widened.

"Who's he?" asked Doc Peavy.

"I ain't seen him before," said Sam Jackson.

"He's got a long case, there. A rifle, maybe," Doc Peavy ventured.

The stranger paused, looked around; obviously, he had a destination—and in our own village of Macungie; likewise obviously, he wasn't certain of this destination.

Samson Nimrod arose. Here was his meat: an unsupecting stranger, a man unwise to his ways, one who had no way of knowing that his tales had a notoriety for exaggeration. Paul Bunyan was a piker in comparison with Samson Nimrod. Paul Bunyan was an obvious liar, while Nimrod often told subtle, half-plausible prevarications which could, possibly, be true, yet bordered on the miraculous often enough to arouse suspicion.

"Can I help you?" Samson Nimrod asked, very friendly-like.

"Yes. Can you tell me where Willoughby Snitzel lives?" inquired the stranger.

Said Nimrod: "Sure! . . . You know, he lives where the pheasants are thicker'n corn borers, friend. Say! Tell me you ain't heared of Willoughby Snitzel's corn field eatin' pheasant, friend? . . . You ain't from Pennsylvania, no doubt. Hell, man! A man what ain't heared of them pheasants just ain't lived."

The stranger's face lighted. I recognized that warm gleam that started at the eyes and spread over the face, glowing, gushing, banishing all mundane cares, a godlike gleam . . . That was a hunter's gleam, I knew. Mention a pheasant, a cottontail, a deer, a rifle, to a hunter, and that gleam will spread over the face. I knew at once that this stranger was dangling by his neck on a snare; he was exposed to a tale now come hell or high water; he was helpless.

"The pheasants in Willoughby Snitzel's corn field were somethin' feerocious. You couldn't take a step in that corn field without steppin' on one! Why, if they'd flush—and they was so consarned plentiful and cocky-like, they mightened not flush at all—they'd black out the sun, like one of them eclipses.

"They et the corn, down to the last kernel. Old Willoughby was sore, but he was a sport hisself and laughed it off. But he had some good Heffers, gol-ding it, and he wanted to feed 'em fat for the market on the stalks; so when these pheasants started eatin' leaves, husks, stalk and all, he got up his Dutch.

"He hunted hisself some pizen. He started out lookin' for paris green but woulda settled for rat pizen by the time he got done ransackin' the barn. He couldn't find nothin'. He found nothin' but a gallon jug of corn likker his grand-pappy hadn't got around to drinkin'. He sits hisself down, and figgers. If that likker could kill his pappy—and Doc Snyder swears it did—then it could kill these infernal pheasants!

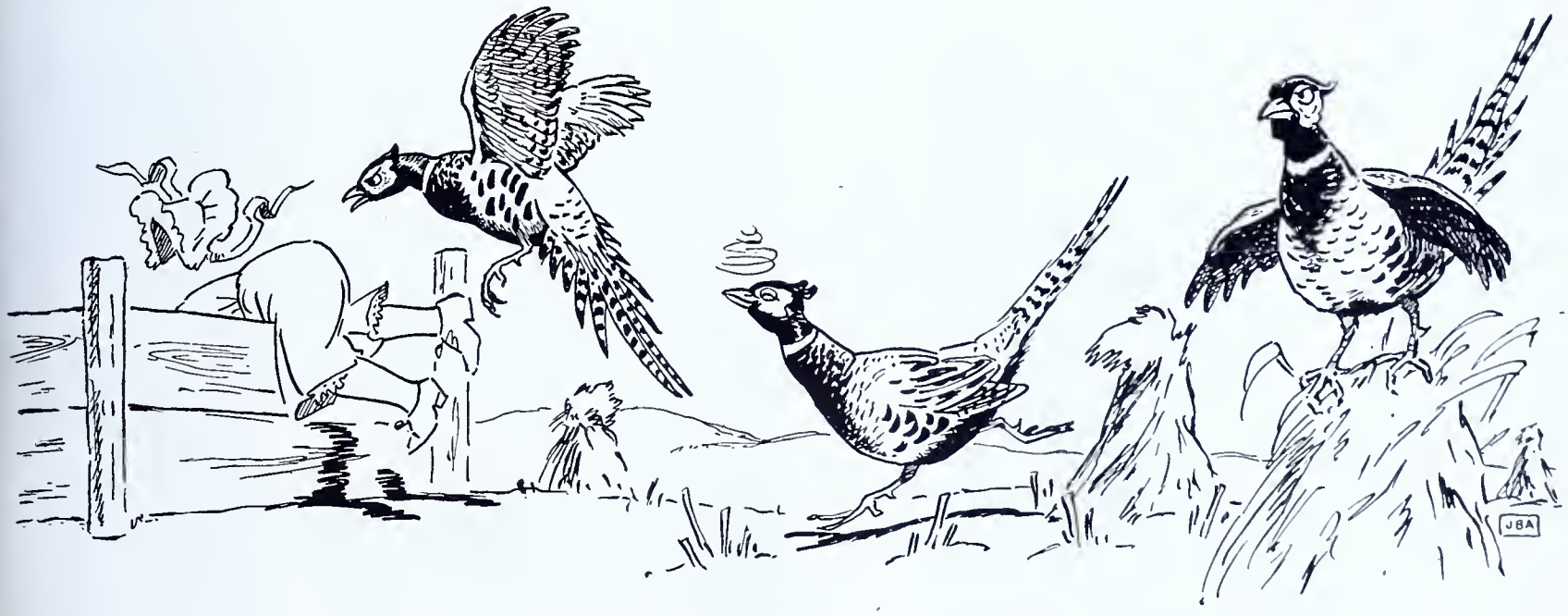
"Old Willoughby gets hisself a spray and fills it up with corn likker. Then he goes out in the field, shooes off the pheasants with a rake, and sprays every gol-ding cornstalk with likker.

"He does all this without thinkin'. I say this because I know he ain't got a mean bone in his body. He just didn't remember that he was doin' all this sprayin' on October thirty-first.

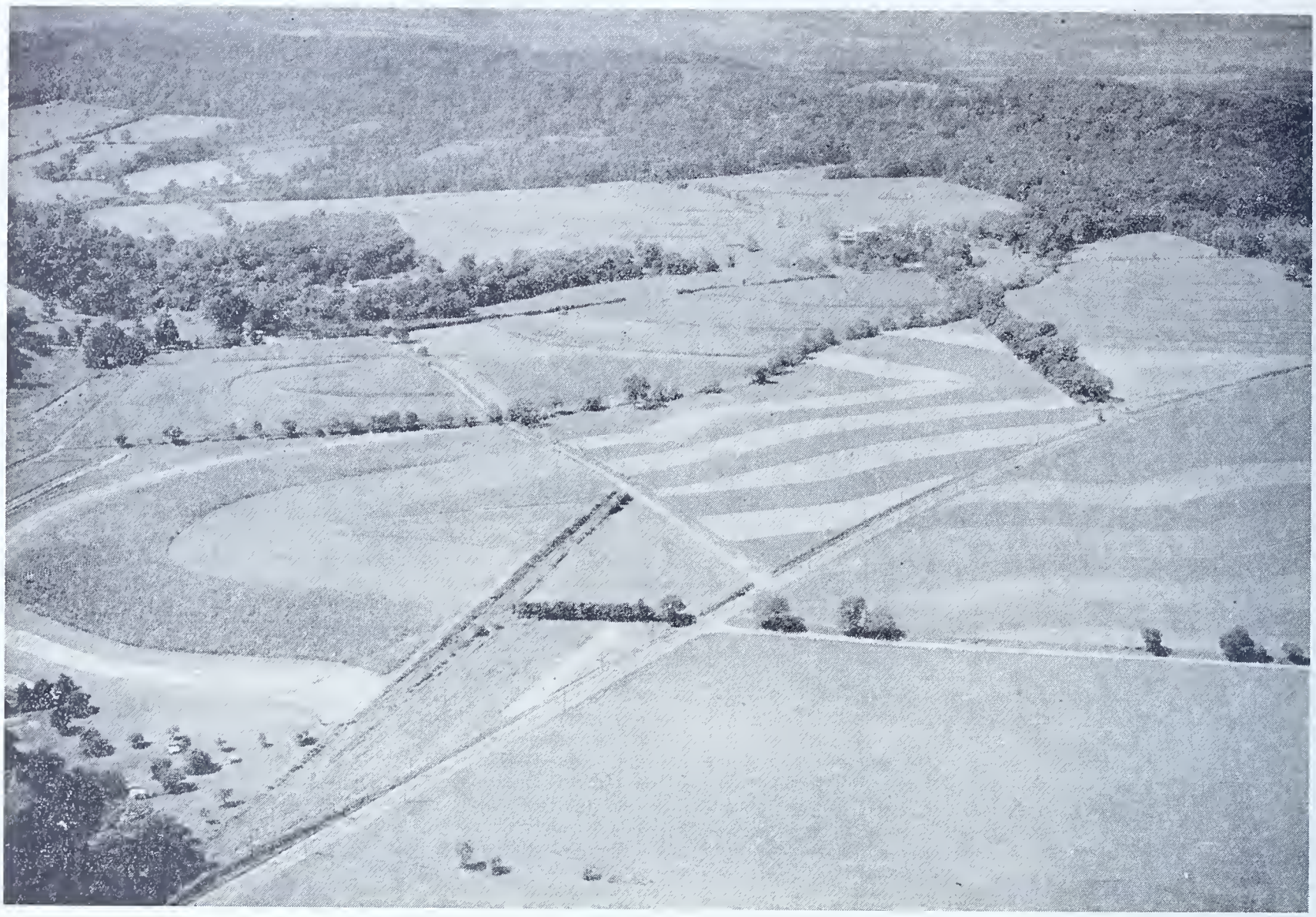
"The next day was the opener on pheasant hunting. I was waked up before seven by the damdest racket you ever did hear. First off, I heard a woman scream, then I heard shootin'. Shotguns, too! Before seven.

"I rushed outside. There I saw the damdest thing ever. There were pheasants struttin' and weavin' and cluckin' somethin' feerocious. Their feathers were all ruffed up and their eyes, bright red, were big as

*(Continued on Page 19)*




**"There were pheasants struttin' and weavin' and cluckin' somethin' feerocious . . "**



Contour strips and terraces on farms of Carroll Williams and Jacob Betts, R. D. 1, New Hope, Bucks County.

# SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS--

## The Farmer's Answer to Land-Use Problems

### By WALTER C. GUMBEL*

Photos courtesy U. S. Soil Conservation Service.

*Editor's Note: Here is an article which should be of exceptional value to all who are interested in Conservation. More people are becoming soil conscious every year, because they realize that life and prosperity depend upon using it wisely. Conservation practices have already shown that soil can be kept fertile, and erosion reduced to a minimum, with little additional effort on the part of the landowner. Wise land use also takes into consideration the importance of wildlife to assure a well rounded conservation program. In fact, the application of soil conservation practices usually aids wildlife materially with no added cost.*

*Farm-Game Cooperators and farmers in general should find this article both instructive and useful. Interested sportsmen can be helpful by disseminating the information to those who otherwise would not obtain it, and by encouraging landowners to avail themselves of the multiple benefits of the soil conservation program.*

IN RECENT years, large numbers of Pennsylvania farmers have begun actively to prevent damage to their land and other farm resources caused by erosion and incorrect land use. Thousands of them have adopted one or more soil conservation practices. Over 5,000 of them have adopted complete conservation programs for 575,000 acres of farmland. The principal conservation measures which they are applying include plowing and planting in curving, always level, rows that follow the contour of the land; dividing sloping cropland into contour strips of grass or other close-growing crop, alternating with strips of cultivated crops, thus breaking up damaging flow of water; use of diversion ditches and broad-base terraces to lead surplus water slowly and safely off the land; drainage of fertile but wet land; use of cover crops; better management of pastures and woodland, and the use of shrubbery and other vegetation to check erosion and to encourage and protect wildlife. In fact, many soil conservation practices are also wildlife conservation practices, and wildlife conservation is part of every complete soil conservation program.

It has only been since the middle 1930's that farmers, agricultural authorities, and the general public have begun to realize how serious matters erosion and incorrect land use are. In Pennsylvania, the extent of erosion can be gauged by the findings of a recent, detailed survey of some two and a half million acres of farmland in all parts of the state. This survey shows that only 13 per cent of the cropland surveyed is free from appreciable erosion, and that from 25 to 75 per cent of the topsoil has been washed off more than three-quarters of the cropland. Pasture and woodland show less extensive erosion, but still enough to call for remedial measures.

* Penna. State Conservationist, U. S. Soil Conservation Service.

View of gully twenty days after shrubs were planted and thirteen days after it was direct seeded with grass, legumes and seed mixture. The fence was erected to protect the area from livestock.

View of the same gully two years after planting. The area is approximately 3,000 feet long and 40 feet wide, and about 7,500 shrubs and 20 lbs. of seeding material were used.

Although many of the soil conservation measures used are largely of recent development, some of them have been known for a long time. As a matter of fact, George Washington and Thomas Jefferson practiced contouring on their farms. To aid in the development and application of soil conservation measures, the Soil Conservation Service was established in 1935. In order to furnish large scale demonstrations of soil conservation in operation on actual farms, a number of demonstration areas were developed by the Service in nearly every state of the Union. In many cases these demonstration areas became the nucleus of soil conservation districts, organized in different states under the provisions of state enabling acts.

In Pennsylvania, such an enabling act was passed in 1937, and since then six soil conservation districts, covering 1,315,000 acres, have been created. Each of these districts is a legal subdivision of the state, organized to carry out on a broad and effective scale a land-use and soil and water conservation program for the general welfare of the farmers and communities within the district boundaries. All told, nearly 1,269 soil conservation districts have been organized in 45 of the 48 states. These districts cover nearly 700,000,000 acres.

Farmers in the six Pennsylvania districts have been particularly concerned with the following activities: proper use of the land; conservation of the four natural resources—soil, water, woodland and wildlife; increasing production per acre and per farm; drainage; prevention of floods, stream siltation and pollution; and highway maintenance. Recently, a new and serious problem has had to be faced in certain areas, notably in Clarion County: strip mining of coal from farmland is rapidly denuding many acres of fertile land and threatens to damage this land so badly that it will no longer be taxable.

The formation of new districts, according to an Act passed at the last session of the Legislature, is handled by the State Soil Conservation Commission. Requests for information, therefore, about soil conservation districts should be addressed to the Honorable Miles Horst, Chairman, State Soil Conservation Commission, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

The greater part of the money appropriated to the Soil Conservation Service by Congress is earmarked for operation in local soil conservation districts. The Service, therefore, believes that the effectivenes of its work is enhanced by working through soil conservation districts organized and directed by local farmers. In the past few years, experience has shown that farmers in soil conservation districts have been able to carry on land use programs of much greater extent and scope than the Service or any other governmental agency could hope to attempt dealing individually with farmers. For instance, in Pennsylvania dur- 1944 technical men of the Service in the six districts which were in operation throughout the year, were able nearly to double their accomplishments per man over any previous year because of increased community interest and cooperation engendered by the districts and because an increasing number of farmers shouldered the responsibilities for the success of the district program.

Specifically, what does the district do to help individual farmers? In the first place, any farmer in the district who requests it can have a conservation survey made of his farm by soil technicians. They will prepare a map, drawn on an airplane photograph of his farm, showing the different kinds of soils on the farm, the amount of erosion that has taken place, the degree of slope of the various fields, and the productive capabilities

*(Continued on Page 26)*

Thirty years ago the above dam provided a lot of recreation and ample water for livestock during dry seasons.

Silt from a few nearby farms has since filled the pond—damage that could have been prevented by practicing soil conservation methods.

# SHORE PATROL

By J. RODGER DARLING

*Courtesy Fauna, 1943*

BLACK, midwinter gales hurl thundering mountains of grey ocean at the rocky New England coast, and when these northeasters blast their way down from Labrador even seasoned Yankees prefer to stay indoors. But there is one creature who finds glory in battling the elements. He soars and glides through the raging storm, shrilling his defiance of wind, rain, and turbulent sea. This is the sea gull, the "ocean eagle," who seems to exult in the fierceness of the tempest.

From a flock of gulls, bobbing like white corks a hundred yards out in the surging grey sea, a group takes off with powerful, rhythmic wing beats, rising slowly into the teeth of the wind. As they climb more and more rapidly, they bank smoothly and turn, only to be blasted along toward the steep shore. Then, just above the foam-lashed beach, the updraft from the bluff catches them and, with wings spread motionless, they soar up—up—up, until they reach that high point where the horizontal and vertical winds are more nearly balanced. At a virtual standstill they slowly fall away to one side, and quartering into the wind, they glide along parallel to the beach.

The drifting, soaring, catching of air currents continues for any length of time, with each gull all the while shrieking his plaintive cry and holding his great wings rigid except for an occasional twist of the tips for banking or steering.

At length he coasts downward and outward until, near the wave crest once more, he is caught again by the inrushing gale, hurled toward the beach, and then swept back up to the scudding clouds. This continues indefinitely until at last the effortless gull, slowly turning his sharp eyes this way and that, spies some succulent morsel below him. With the speed of a plummeting hawk he drops to dine, to bob awhile on the surface, and then resumes his tireless patrol.

Once awing, the gull is master and has nothing to fear. His aeronautical ability is unsurpassed. Testimony to this is given by man's naming some of his best airplanes "gull wing" types. The herring gull's powerful pinions enable him swiftly to cover many miles in straight flight, or to rise to heights that make his four-foot wing span a mere dot in the sky.

By popular and scientific misconception this bird has been misjudged and misnamed. To the landlubber, and to many who frequent the seashore, all of the larger ocean birds, including true gulls, terns, and others, are spoken of as "gulls." The bird that concerns us—the most common of the sea birds along the New England coast—is popularly known as "sea gull." His proper name

Photo by Massachusetts Fisheries Association.

Herring Gulls following a trawler, waiting for a "handout" of fish heads and other trimmings that are thrown overboard in great quantities.

is herring gull, *Larus argentatus,* although herring form the smallest portion of his diet, and he is not even a real "sea gull" since he rarely ventures far from the coast. The real sea-going gull is the kittiwake, *Rissa tridactyla.*

**Tons of Provender**

Storms are welcomed and enjoyed by the herring gull, probably because they provide an abundance of food for him. When the gale subsides, the shore line is cluttered with tons of seaweed and kelp, piled like a wall along the high-water mark. Buried in and under this great mass of vegetation are countless forms of animal life, ranging from protozoans to good-sized fishes. The gulls descend upon this feast by the hundreds, and, in record time, swarms of bickering, diving, fighting birds are busy devouring everything of animal form, and even much of the vegetable and inorganic waste on the shore.

The water content of the seaweed is so high that only a comparatively small residue of organic material remains after a week of drying in the sun. What is left is quickly dispersed by the wind, rain, and sea, and when summer returns the New England beaches are once more clean, spotless playgrounds. Without the shore patrol of winged scavengers, the tons of refuse would steadily accumulate. And, with the coming of warm weather, it would rot, creating an excellent breeding ground for bacteria and pestilence. One vast odor would permeate the atmosphere for many miles inland and the entire coast would become a pesthole to be shunned.

Conservation officers, health officials, and other authorities have taken cognizance of the priceless and irreplaceable service that the gulls perform and have decreed it a criminal offense for any one to harm these valuable birds. As a result of this highly deserved protection, the gull has become fairly sociable and almost always can be seen, winter or summer, patrolling the dunes, flats, beaches, and marshes of the shore. These are not his only habitats—he also is found on other coastlines of North America, Europe, and Asia—in fact, throughout the whole Northern Hemisphere.

The herring gull's diet is largely composed of the materials he consumes as a scavenger. Not that these birds prefer carrion, but, because they lack the diving ability of the tern and the duck, they seldom catch live fish. When waste matter is scarce the gulls feed on crabs, shrimps, clams and other mollusks, stranded fish, sea worms, and miscellaneous sea life. Almost anything is satisfactory on the gull's menu. It is not rare to see one boldly following a plowman on a seaside farm, gulping down the insects and worms turned up by the plowshare.

I have never seen a herring gull dive completely under water—from a surface position, as ducks do, or from flight, like the terns. The best he can do is a sort of "dunk," performed by flapping a foot or two above the surface and plopping down, headfirst into the water. Even then, it's only his head that goes under.

To compensate for his lack of submarine ability, the gull often resorts to dishonest tactics. Quite a bit offshore a flock of coots or ducks may be gracefully bobbing and diving, occasionally coming up with a herring. When this happens, three or four gulls, loitering a quarter of a mile distant, instantly swoop over, and, as the coot or duck breaks the surface, they belabor and abuse the smaller bird until they can snatch the fish from its bill.

Memorial to the gulls at Salt Lake City erected by the Mormons.

**At Low Tide**

Various other methods, depending upon circumstances, are used by gulls to capture a dinner. On calm days, when the tide is quite low, the gulls walk and paddle along the water edge gobbling up "critters" exposed by the receding ripples. Potholes in the flats, bared by low water, often yield trapped fishes or eels. And while the tide is out they may follow human clam diggers to reexamine their excavations for sea worms and an occasional unnoticed clam.

A long, granite breakwater, jutting half a mile out into the bay, provides a good hunting ground. At low tide the bottom of the breakwater is exposed, enabling a gull to paddle alongside, dip his bill into the water beside some barnacle-covered boulder, and, with luck, haul forth a reluctant crab. If it is a tender, young one, the gull's strong beak soon transforms it into so much crab meat. But should it be a tough old-timer, and should the gull find that he isn't making much progress in crushing the shell, he takes off with the crab in his bill. He flies over the hard beach, rises to thirty or forty feet, drops the crab, swoops down almost before the unfortunate arthropod smashes to fragments on the hard sand, and hastily gulps down the meat. This haste is not through lack of etiquette but because of dire necessity. Other gulls are all about and it's "first come, first served."

**Bombing Tactics**

A slightly different maneuver is used whenever a clam is found. The gull's strong bill is of no avail against the hard-shelled mollusk, so up into the air he flaps with it. If there are no other gulls nearby, he will rise sixty, eighty, or a hundred feet above the hard sand, realizing that the extra height is necessary to smash such a tough shell. Fast as the bird is in folding his wings and diving after the falling clam, he doesn't dare use this method if any of his friends are around, because one of them might beat him to it.

So if a flock of gulls be present, the lucky possessor of the clam flies over a granite breakwater with it. There he need drop the bivalve from a height of only ten feet to smash it to fragments, and at such close range it can be retrieved much more quickly. But, speedy as he is, he still may lose the tasty morsel, for often the spattered victim bounces out of reach between the granite blocks. Then the frustrated gull can do nothing but flap away, screaming his curses.

Often half a dozen hungry gulls will make an unearthly racket when one of them picks up a fish, attempts to fly away with it, and

*(Continued on Page 29)*

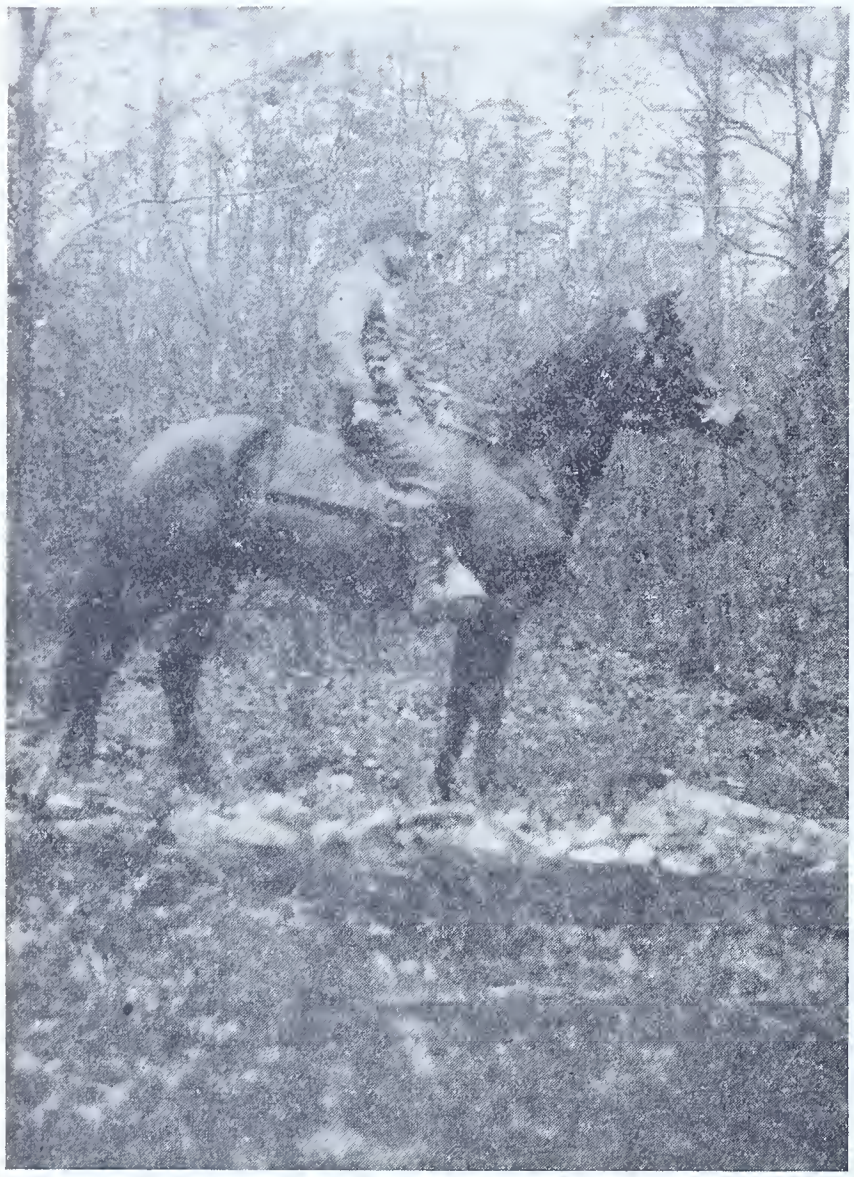


Photo by Seth Gordon, May, 1922.
**W. F. Mason, Keeper on Game Refuge No. 1, Clinton County, patrolled that area on horseback.**

# HORSE AND BUGGY DAYS OF THE GAME REFUGE SYSTEM

**By M. E. SHERMAN***

**In next month's issue Mr. Sherman concludes his story with a most interesting recital of unusual experiences of early day refuge keepers.**

FORTY years ago (1905) the first game refuge was established in Pennsylvania. Until then no retreat, haven or sanctuary of any kind had been provided officially for the ever diminishing wildlife, which was swiftly being reduced to the point of extermination. It is true that a few altruistic individuals had provided small havens here and there, hoping to stave off what appeared to be the inevitable. These individuals in most instances either lacked funds or the local support of the community. Consequently, it appears that the majority of these failed.

There were also a few individuals or groups who set aside areas, patterned after the plan in use for centuries by the aristocracy of Europe, where tracts of land were selected and guards employed to keep out poachers, so that good sport could be assured themselves and their friends. Their motive, of course, was a selfish one. The refuge idea, as conceived for Pennsylvania, had a higher objective than the landed gentry of Europe. In this state, the full benefits of the refuge idea were, and are yet, worked out for the benefit of all the people, not just the selfish individuals.

Modern firearms, ever increasing numbers of hunters and the rapidly improving methods of transportation, along with the depleted coverts, seemed to spell the doom of all wildlife. A few altruistic individuals, becoming impatient with the lethargy of the public, assumed the responsibility, or in other words seized the initiative, and saw to it that authority was provided by law, to select well chosen areas for absolute protection. Their difficulties had just begun, once this authority was provided by Legislative Act; but, however, they held steadfastly to their course.

Among these individuals, there were those who had traveled far afield, and perhaps had hunted and studied wildlife in many places in the United States, Canada, Mexico and some in Europe. They were the men of visions and dreams; also an abundance of hope. Generally, these men had responsibilities which occupied much and perhaps most of their time. It became necessary for them to provide a working personnel as a nucleus to start forward with the program. The first chosen official, employed to carry on this work, was from among them; the first secretary of the Game Commission, Dr. Joseph Kalbfus.

Difficulties arose in abundance, due to lack of funds and the lack of interest on the part of the authority to provide them. However, through contributions, meager appropriations and other donations, the work was started, and so my simple story will be told of the Horse and Buggy Days of the Game Refuge System in Pennsylvania, as it has been learned from the oldtimers and my own experience in the service.

Additional help was seriously needed to enforce the few game laws on the statute books at the time. This did not deter or thwart the plans of the designers. These noble men set forth, despite their limited funds and their scanty personnel, to carry out the task of establishing a series of game refuges. The white tail or Virginia Deer, having become extinct in most sections of the Commonwealth, appeared to be their first interest. Therefore, chosen areas most suitable as habitat for deer became the first game refuges in Pennsylvania. These were selected on State Forest Lands or leased lands from private individuals.

State Game Refuge No. 1, located in Clinton County on State Forest Land, holds the distinction of being the first officially established refuge. The saga in connection with the establishment and maintenance of this large game refuge would almost entail a whole story of interest to the people of Pennsylvania.

Indeed, the chosen closed area had been the regular hunting grounds of local nimrods and others who bitterly resented, what they deemed to be, an encroachment on their Constitutional Rights and Privileges. Conflicts were staged with the officer placed in charge, and gatherings occurred in country stores and elsewhere, until this supposed to be indignant usurpation of rights roused the wrath of a few indivduals to where they developed an effigy of the Game Refuge Keeper, hung it in a conspicuous place and shot through it on numerous occasions.

The foregoing brief story, covering in a general way the beginning of the game refuge system, gives the reader a limited history on the beginning of a wildlife conservation program in Pennsylvania, which has been a boon to the nimrods of this Commonwealth and many from other states; also the wildlife lovers who are interested in the esthetic value of wildlife.

The saga to follow is intended to deal with the lives of the

* Field Division Supervisor—"E".

pioneer refuge keepers and their families. No accuracy is attempted regarding the sequence in stories or their dates. However, it is my wish to follow as nearly accurate as my memory will serve me, or as nearly accurate as the stories of experiences may be obtained from the now living game refuge keepers, their families or relatives. I shall appreciate your tolerance and patience in the event that anyone may have heard the story differently than the picture of the event has been portrayed in this narrative. Please remember that memory fails with age and versions differ, because events are not always observed or understood from the same slant.

It has been my pleasure and joy to have worked with a number of the oldtimers and their families. Their trials and tribulations were, like mine, concerned with the field operational service of the game refuges. I have served in the capacity of a field division superior since August 1922.

The Game Commission, in its initial stages of establishing game refuges, faced the problem of finding suitable personnel to man these newly created sanctuaries for wildlife. Refuge keepers and their families would be required to live in remote places, and may be required to face considerable inconvenience, as well as hardship, to carry on the duties and still attend to family requirements. Immediately it became apparent that the family would be involved in assisting the officer in charge. Telephones required the attention of the family quite frequently, especially in cases of law enforcement and forest fires. As time and experience developed a refuge, it was learned that the family was indeed a most important need of the officer in charge.

Refuge keepers were selected from the applicants in those days by the trial and error method. A number failed or their families would not accept the inconvenience and the hardship of severe winters in remote rural regions, where a neighbor was not within several miles in many instances, and where the school problem for their children was a severe and trying one. However, those employed were usually of the type adapted to this sort of environment, of which some were ex-lumberjacks and woodsmen of various types, knowing and experiencing the hardship required.

These men were generally rugged and hardy, which made up much for the lack of a technique, then undeveloped or unknown. Some were rather picturesque and of a homespun quality, now rapidly disappearing from among us. Their methods of approach, or dealing with the new problems facing them, was sometimes crude, but nevertheless appeared to leave no doubt that they knew the shortest distance between two points was a straight line.

A good horse and horse drawn vehicles were an essential part of their equipment. These men, if not already so, became proficient horseback riders, as the need for this ability was a daily requirement. The vehicles were needed to make the long journey to town for mail, groceries and official needs, required and shipped to the nearest railway express or freight stations. Quite frequently a member of the family performed this task while the refuge keeper patrolled his refuge, fought forest fires or attended to some other duty needing his attention.

A number of these men, as I observed them in their daily routine of duty, generally clothed themselves with a more or less half lumberjack or cowboy outfit, which fit admirably with their task and their surroundings. Few persons coming in contact with them ever had any doubt regarding their being an officer of the forest and the wildlife. Others found it convenient to clothe themselves with outfits that sometimes bordered on the comical or grotesque. Much depended on the character and the duties he was engaged upon at the time. Mark you, these duties were sometimes unusual and out of the ordinary imagination of the layman.

Some were excellent axemen and were generally jack-of-all-trades handy men. Others were profound lovers and students of wildlife, whereas others may be proficient trappers of fur bearers and predatory animals. The blending of these qualities, along with the ability of some to sing old fashioned ditties, tell backwoods stories or do other enumerable things fashionable or in vogue of their day, always gave me joy in working with them or associating with them in our official duties. I frequently enjoyed the hospitality of their humble homes and the association of their families.

During the year 1936, the old refuge system was abandoned for the more modern system now in vogue, which groups refuges and lands for management purposes. Some of the old refuge keepers carried on with the new system, but due to their age and the need for more scientific and technical application, these men found it difficult to carry on with more extensive charges. Their day is done, and we now carry with us their memory only, knowing full and well that they laid the ground work and did their job well. The few remaining were the younger of the group, and who now carry on benefitted in their new task by the rich experience of yesteryear.

The large areas of wild and rugged lands inclosed by a single strand of number 9 wire, approximating three feet above the ground, was adopted as the official boundary line of a game refuge. From this game refuge wildlife could travel at will to replenish the surrounding hunting grounds or retreat to sanctuary when pursued too hotly by hunters. These game refuges ran in area generally anywhere from about 1500 acres to about 3500 acres. The boundary lines, in addition to the single strand of wire, were kept well mowed of the year's growth each year. These boundary lines, while officially expected to be kept to about eight feet in width, were sometimes kept to a width of as much as twenty feet, depending on the fancy of the refuge keeper and his own hard and vigorous experiences in dealing with forest fires in the region.

The refuge keeper's primary duties were to guard this refuge, reduce the predatory animals within and surrounding, and patrol the territory within a proximity of ten miles around the refuge for any violations of the Game, Fish or Forestry Laws. The do so, a first and paramount duty required the annual mowing of his boundary line, which was his responsibility and duty without any additional labor. The distances varied around the outside boundary lines, anywhere from about five miles to about twelve miles, depending on the many crooks and turns caused in evading a high rocky bluff or the taking in of an especially good retreat for wildlife.

The task of mowing, replacing stolen sections of wire, broken or worn out posts and dead or fallen trees used as posts, and the posting of the boundary line with the official metal and cardboard posters, generally occupied the refuge keeper steadily every day from about August 1 until nearly the end of October. During my inspection trips around these refuges at this time of year, I sometimes paused, unobserved by these men, to appreciate the meticulous manner in which they neatly cleared out their boundary line. This loyalty was appreciated and perhaps was not often enough told to them. However, it became my duty to express to them my appreciation in some manner. In those days, when my duties permitted me to spend many more hours in the field, I made it a point to give each of them a day or two of my own labor of mowing line or anything else to improve the refuge. They were boss when this day or days occurred.

During a trip around one of the larger refuges on a hot afternoon in August 1926, I observed a moving object about a mile ahead in the refuge line. It appeared at first to be about a

*(Continued on Page 31)*

Photo by Seth Gordon, May, 1922.

**W. J. Bailer, Keeper of Refuge No. 11, Lackawanna County, standing on the South line of the area.**

Boa Constrictor

# FOR THE LOVE OF SNAKES

By
BESS HIBARGER

Diamond-back Rattler

THE boy, Raymond Lee Ditmars, set the Gladstone bag on the basement floor, propped it open carefully, took a long pole in hand, and advanced toward the coal bin. The doctor, C. Slover Allen, armed with a similar pole, stood by watching curiously. A low sinister buzz set the Boy's pulse throbbing. He opened the screen door of the wire-netted bin and entered warily.

Dr. Allen, experimenter in serpent poisons, had finished his work. The water moccasin specimens he had presented to Keeper Downey of New York's Central Park menagerie. But the huge Florida rattler wouldn't eat and he didn't want to give away a sick snake. He had met the young naturalist at Central Park where the latter went often to study the ledges or snake hide-outs; he had doubtless heard how Ditmars had helped a tardy boa at the zoo to shed its skin; he knew that the boy wanted to start a reptile collection so he had promised that he might have this rattler if he could come and take it. The critical moment for accepting the gift had arrived.

The boy advanced with determination and with deep respect for the rattler's power as he saw it in the far corner of the bin lifting a head as broad as his hand above its six feet of diamond-back coil. There was no neutralizing serum in those days. Ditmars knew the sensational story of the youthful attendant at Huber's Museum on 14th Street who had been struck by a diamond-back the previous week and had died within a few hours.

Flash! The rattler flung out at him, sliding its huge hulk along the cement floor. Flash! He slipped the pole beneath it and maneuvered the angry swaying head toward the Gladstone bag. Tensely the doctor watched as the scaly ten-inch girth of snake surged into the bag. The boy deftly snapped the latch, thanked Dr. Allen, and left with his grisly treasure.

As he hurried along his heart beat high. A swarm of IF's buzzed teasingly through his brain. IF he could only get the chief interested in live things like this instead of that stuffy atmosphere of dead bugs! IF he could get the chance to present his "Rattlesnakes of Connecticut" before the Linnaean Society that brought fifty-odd scientists together for bi-monthly research reports at the American Museum of Natural History! He had almost made it once, the night William Beebe, a youth about his own age had broken the ice by presenting one of his stuffed birds. IF he could only have a houseful of snakes, the venomous kind, so that he could study the golden drops of death to discover their use to man. IF he could only persuade the chief to let him have a tame rattler in that musty old balcony where he classified endless trays of *Lepidoptera!* Well, at least, the snake was in the bag!

The hand of fate had led Ditmars one day into the Museum of Natural History through the door of the Department of Entomology. He wasn't too fond of his job but the field trips fascinated him, especially when there were flat rocks to overturn. His chief, William Beutenmuller, curator of that department, had an obsession for beetles. He also had a deep respect for Ditmars' ability. He had lately set the boy the task of labeling the Harry Edwards Collection, an estimated quarter of a million insects valued at $25,000. How Raymond hated the monotonous task of inking the tens of thousands of tiny museum labels, pinning the tags, transferring the specimens, and entering all the data in the huge museum catalogues! How he hated the semi-annual fumigating day with its nauseous fumes of naphtha! How he longed to impress with the need of attention to reptiles the scientists who sometimes accompanied them on the field trips and to whom he addressed countless postal announcements of meetings! How elated he was when he finally gained a hearing for his "Serpents of Central Park"!

The entomologists listened to that paper with considerable interest. Young Ditmars believed in visual education. At the proper moment he introduced live samples, some of which were albinos, to prove his facts. The rest of the program gave way to a lively discussion provoked by his unusual observations of reptilian life in Central Park.

Ditmars had the chief to thank for the publication of this paper in the society's journal of which the latter was editor. This paved the way for winning his point: a grisly but friendly companion to blink at him from a well-built cage amoung the museum trays. The chief frowned savagely upon this innovation but said nothing.

One day Ditmars was surprised beyond measure by a visit from the "big boss," Morris K. Jesup, the president of the Museum who had brought with him the staff for the special purpose of seeing the pet rattler. Jesup confessed that he had never heard a snake rattle and he was curious. Ditmars, working at an open tray, assured him that this one wouldn't rattle because it was tame. Mr. Jesup wanted to see it outside its cage. Ditmars lifted it gently with his staff and placed it at the far end of the table. If the president's curiosity hadn't got the better of him, if he hadn't given the beast a sharp poke with his cane, if the startled serpent hadn't charged through the priceless tray of butterflies scattering wings in all directions, Ditmars might have been saved a severe reprimand and his job. But if that hadn't happened, perhaps his parents would not have moved to a larger house where he was given the whole upstairs to be used for his long-coveted collection.

This move was a great step forward in the career of the future famous herpetologist. He chuckled as he thought of the double-strong spring the family had ordered the carpenter to put on the upper hall door and he glowed with pride as he thought of the new cages with their sliding panels of glass, their carefully waxed interiors, and the first prize specimen soon to be made at home there. He would need more money so that he could properly feed his pets. IF he could only get a choice collection of tropical snakes with a fer-de-lance or a bushmaster! But above all, if he could only prove that snakes are useful, that the green and amber crystals of their deadly poisons could be used to cure loathesome diseases like leprosy and cancer!

Boys who dream dreams and set up goals go places. When young Ditmars learned that fruit boats from the tropics frequently bring astonishing insects and reptiles to our ports, he visited all the landing places he could reach, supplied the officials with linen bags, and begged them to look out for snakes and to send them to him if they found any. The plan worked. He soon had a beautiful boa to add to his collection.

The Ditmars family must have dreaded vacations for it was then that Raymond's collection took on proportions. The Gladstone bag held many a treasure of dark danger as he mounted the steps with copperheads, timber rattlers, water moccasins, spreading adders, and snakes of every size and many kinds.

One memorable day there came a letter to the Museum addressed to whom it might concern. It was postmarked Trinidad, the island that stands at the gateway to the Guianas, paradise of snake hunters. The writer, an enthusiastic herpetologist, had a fine collection of tropical snakes that he wished to exchange for North American specimens. The letter was referred at once to young Ditmars.

That night he told his family that he had a chance to ship his fifty-three snakes to Trinidad. They exchanged gratified glances,

drew deep breaths of relief. His father went upstairs with him to discuss plans for shipping. Father Ditmars' buoyant attitude warned Raymond that he must break the news gently that this was to be an exchange venture with tropical replacements among which he hoped for the worst!

What an exciting time he had getting his pets ready for shipment! How gingerly the baggageman handled the big crate when he whispered the nature of its contents! How patiently he waited the long silent three months to learn of their safe arrival. How thrilled he was at last when the postman brought the long, gaily stamped letter from Trinidad. He could scarcely wait to tell the family that his shipment had arrived in perfect condition; that there were now in port waiting for delivery fifteen South American snakes including one terrible bushmaster, which he was warned to liberate with extreme caution, and two of the deadly fer-de-lance! He could scarcely wait until the express truck was at the door.

In fact he couldn't wait and it was well that he hurried to the dock for the truck men were handling the huge crate pretty roughly. A word from Ditmars explaining its contents changed their manner instantly. Their tempo quickened with nervous haste and they eyed Raymond with open distrust.

The crate was so large that it had to be opened in the hall upstairs. The family wanted to watch but Raymond begged them to wait until the big show was ready behind cage doors. He opened the crate with great patience and found in the straw-filled compartments of the first tray labeled bags which he discharged cautiously into the waiting cages. From one of these bags slid two slender velvet-green vipers—the deadly fer-de-lance.

When he lifted the top tray, he started and set it back promptly. Two huge boas, unbagged, lifted their heads and looked at him inquiringly. In one-third of the compartment was a rough burlap bag with scales like pine cones showing through. The bag surface moved. That was the bushmaster!

He brought his bathrobe to cover the boas and lifted the burlap bag. It was heavy: eight feet of jungle savagery! When the bag was opened, young Ditmars had the surprise of his life. This viper didn't ripple into the cage as he had expected but turned its large reddish-brown eyes at him and started to charge! He had grown expert at using a staff to control his charges but the swift turn and warlike manner of this newcomer took him unawares. He was startled by the bright-black bands on the salmon-colored body and alarmed at its swift flow toward him over the staff. He backed off warily, maneuvering the staff with skill, but the snake was gaining and he knew something about the length of its fangs and the amount of its poison.

As he took a turn about the room, his thoughts racing, he noticed the broom beside the door. He hooked it forward with the staff, kicked it behind him as he backed off rapidly, picked it up with an artful move, and shoved the brushy end in the bushmaster's face. Fine treatment for a jungle king! Fortunately it worked. The surprised reptile right-about-faced, hurtled forward into the cage, and gathered himself into a distainful triple coil behind the glass panel. Raymond, streaming with perspiration, fastened the door securely and drew a deep breath of relief.

He was glad the family hadn't come up. But they were calling anxiously to know if he didn't want help. Not yet! Not until those two boas were housed.

He marveled at their gorgeous markings: tan and chocolate-brown; crimson saddles on cream background. The smaller boa was gentle. It was soon drinking eagerly in the cage beside the bushmaster. The big fellow darted a fork of purple tongue at Raymond as he lifted its first yard of length in the crook of his staff. It had a mind of its own intent upon exploring the hall. When the impatient family finally mounted the stairs, they were shocked to see a hallful of bright snake with its tail wrapped about the top bannister post, its head waving an indignant NO as Raymond tried to yank it loose.

Father Ditmars decided to take a hand. He seized the staff, now lying on the floor, and gave the tail a smart rap. The astonished boa let go with such prompt force that Raymond was catapulted through the door, wrapped in folds of writhing reptile. The family stood aghast as he intrepidly staggered out of this heavy tangle and guided the boa to its cage.

One day Kate Swan, the star feature writer of the *New York Journal*, called to interview young Ditmars. She had received a tip at the Museum that he had a houseful of snakes. She found him, as Mother Ditmars ushered her upstairs, wrapped in the coils of the giant boa, swabbing its mouth which had become sore on the long journey.

Raymond talked for two hours about his hobby. The writer asked many questions, observed details with interest, was thrilled to have the pets put through their paces of varied rattles and loop-the-loops, and produced so dramatic an article that Ditmars was soon on his way to fame. The write-up was a 2-page spread under the caption of MASTER OF SNAKES and the illustrator gave Miss Swan's graphic story thrills galore. It brought all sorts of odd visitors to the Ditmars' home and a request from a certain Madame Olga, a noted snake charmer, for help for her sick boa; it brought hundreds of letters some of which were the beginning of contacts that helped to lay the foundation of his scientific career in herpetology.

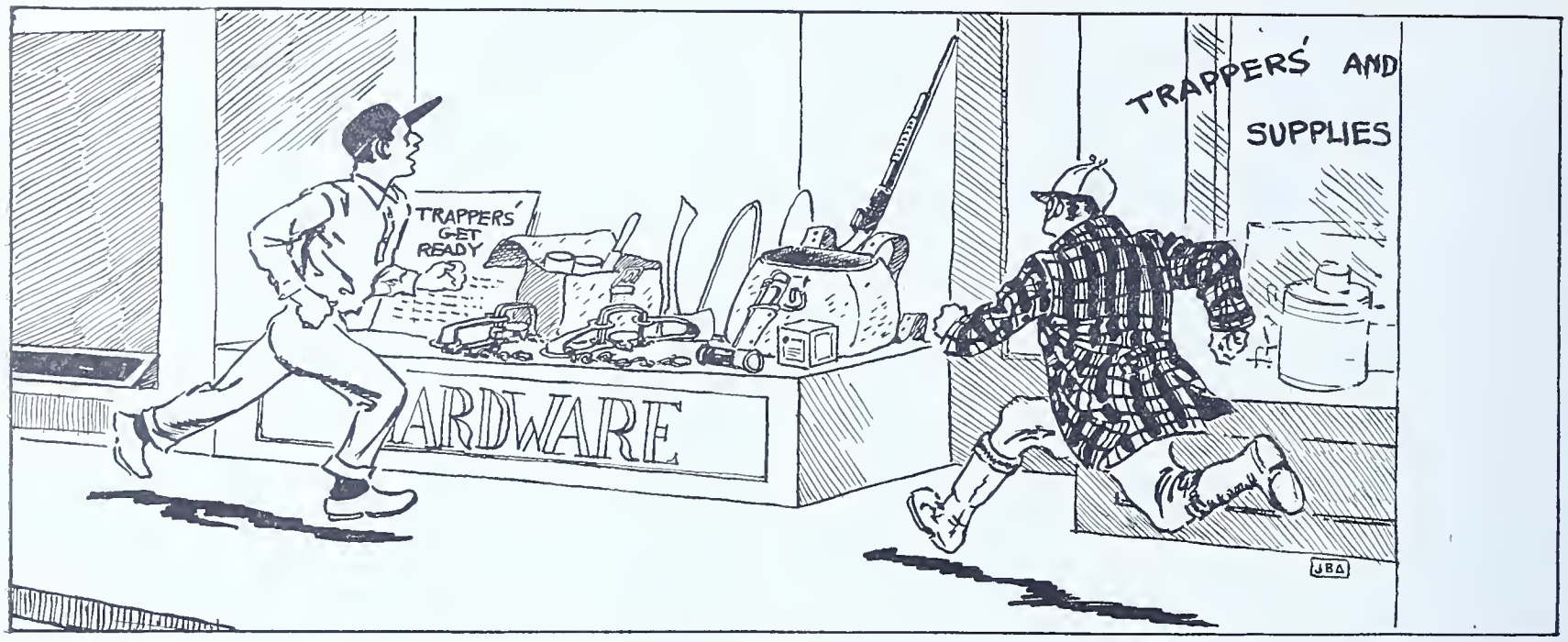
Of course he went to South America where he spent many exciting hours exploring the jungles. He visited the experimental snake farms at Sao Paulo where antevenin is produced to counteract snake bites so frequently the cause of death on the rubber and coffee plantations. One of the most memorable adventures of his life came through a special gift presented to him by Dr. Vital Brazil of the serum institute. This was a gorgeous yellow-ringed crimson serpent, a most unusual specimen, which was his hotel companion in Rio's most artistocratic hotel and for which he risked his liberty one night gold-fish hunting to save this creature's life.

His most exciting experience involved a king cobra, the largest of the world's poisonous snakes. Dr. W. M. Mann, who was Director of the National Zoo at Washington, D. C., wanted a cobra for the new quarter-of-a-millon dollar reptile house and Ditmars was to have charge of the purchase of a shipment from Singapore and see that the king arrived in time for the grand opening. This was scheduled for fall and Ditmars was to give an address with some cobra slides upon this occasion.

The cobras arrived at New York on time but the building was not ready until winter. The problem of how to transport one of these tropical kings in our freezing weather gave Ditmars con-

*(Continued on Page 27)*

King Cobra.




Don't wait until the last moment to purchase new or replace old trapping equipment.

# HINTS FOR TRAPPERS

**By HAROLD PLASTERER**

***Line drawing by J. B. Abbott—Photos by W. L. R. Drake***

DURING the past few years there has been a steady increase in the red fox population not only in Pennsylvania but also in many other states in the north and northeastern part of the country. Undoubtedly, this increase is partly due to the prevailing low value of red fox pelts and the absence of many trappers who are in the Armed Forces or employed in essential war industries. The result has been an influx of red foxes into agricultural areas, where fox trappers have not been operating, and are doing damage to small game and poultry. Along with this increase in population there has been a growing sentiment for a bounty on the red fox as a control measure. The Commission at its meeting on May 2, 1945, adopted a resolution establishing a bounty of $4.00 for all red foxes killed in a wild state from July 16, 1945 to July 15, 1946, in all counties with the exception of Chester and Delaware where a special Act of the General Assembly restricts the killing of foxes to the protection of personal property.

Some of our neighboring states seem to feel that the payment of bounties for the killing of predators is just so much money down the rain spout. This could be the case if the bounty does not furnish an incentive for the hunters and trappers to increase their efforts as well as induce more persons to hunt and trap foxes. The purpose of a bounty is only to control or reduce rather than to exterminate any species, but if the annual take of foxes for bounty is not a large percentage of the total population than is normally taken when there is no bounty paid, then we must consider that the money spent on bounty has been a waste of the sportsmen's dollar.

To merely offer a reward for the killing of a member of any species of wildlife and then sit back and wait for some other person to do the work is somewhat like a farmer who, during the hardest time, offers a given price to any of his neighbors to harvest a field of grain for him and then goes on an extended vacation, fully convinced that someone would accept his offer. The usual result of an offer of this kind is that each neighbor leaves it up to the other to do the work, and the field of grain goes to waste. Specific arrangement must be made with one individual or another or he must

**SMELLING POST SET**

Digging place for trap.

Trap ready to be covered.

Completed set.

remain at home and see to it that the work is done.

Under a bounty system we cannot arrange to have certain individuals control the predators, but we can plan a campaign well in advance of the hunting and trapping season and it is in this work that the sportsmen's organizations can be of great assistance to the Game Commission and the district game protectors. We have in mind the actual participation of members of the organization either by hunting or trapping or through organized drives such as were held by a number of clubs during the past two seasons. Cooperation with the fox hunters and trappers with reports to them of the abundance of foxes in localities where there is no hunting or trapping being done encourages and helps them to extend their efforts into areas where predator control will do the most good. If there is no one available to send into neglected areas, it will be necessary to locate an interested local person who can and will take care of the situation. This may mean giving him trapping instructions. All of the salaried game protectors have received these instructions and almost all of them have had experience in trapping foxes; therefore, they are qualified to teach others proper trapping methods. Help the trappers to break up the abominable practice of stealing furs and traps by reporting to your game protector all cases of this kind that come to your attention; and where possible assist the officer in prosecuting the guilty party.

It is true that a fox trapper will occasionaly catch a hunting dog in one of his traps, but no trapper will do so intentionally, for every time a dog is caught it means the ruination of a set that he has spent considerable time preparing. The hunter whose dog is caught should not be too critical, for after all the trapper is working for his benefit. A closer relationship between sportsman and trapper should help to bring about a better understanding.

Trappers should immediately take an inventory of their trapping equipment and determine if their present supply will be adequate to last them during the coming season. This is especially advisable when new traps will be needed. Last year during the trapping season the Game Commission received numerous letters from trappers seeking information as to where they could purchase new traps. With the supply of steel for traps limited by federal regulations and the distribution of the traps manufactured controlled by priority rated orders, it was not possible for the employes of the Commission to be of any assistance to these men.

The trap companies will place on the market all the traps they can make from the material they buy, but there is some doubt if they will be able to fill all priority rated orders that they now have on file. Most assuredly there will not be a sufficient supply to enable the local dealers to have them in stock at all times. A large percentage of the new traps will go from the manufacturer to either large trappers' supply houses to be sold direct to the trappers or to wholesale hardware companies and then be distributed to local hardware merchants. Trappers and prospective trappers who are in need of new traps should not waste any time in placing their orders even though they will not have need for the merchandise until the beginning of the trapping season.

The care and preparation of the traps so that they will be void of all human odors has been fully explained in many publications; however, for the readers of this article we will briefly repeat what is common knowledge to most trappers. If the traps are new and still retain the factory grease, they should first be boiled in water that contains a small amount of lye—wood ashes will suffice for the lye. The grease will come to the top of the water and should be poured off before the traps are removed from the kettle or container in which they are boiled. Then expose the traps to the weather until they have taken on a thin coat of rust. The next step is to boil the traps in a solution made by boiling butternut bark, soft maple bark, black walnut hulls, sumac bobs or willow tops in water. This treatment gives the traps a deep blue color and helps to arrest further rusting. Trap stakes and other trapping equipment should be treated in this solution so that they will be free of all human odors.

The types of sets most used by trappers are, with a little practice, quite easy to make. The buried bait or dirt-hole set is made along paths, roads, or open spots in the woods and when completed resembles a place where some animal has been digging for a mouse or has buried some piece of food. The bait of tainted meat is placed in the bottom of the hole and covered. The trap is set and concealed in front of the hole at the place where the front feet of the fox are most likely to be when it tries to secure the bait.

The smelling post set is even more simple to make. Locate a place along a path or woods road where foxes stop to leave their urine. If you cannot find such a place one can be made at a small stump or by planting a small evergreen bush and pouring a small amount of fox urine on it. The next fox that comes that way will use it and can be readily caught by setting and concealing a trap in front of the post.

The water set is another good set to use, and when made in warm springs will remain workable long after the freezing of the soil makes dirt sets impracticable. The trap with the exception of the pan should be set under water close to dry shore that is nearly level with the water. The jaws, spring, and chain of the trap are covered with rotten leaves and dirt taken from the bottom of the spring, while the trap pan which extends above the water is covered with moss. A moss covered stone on which to place the bait is then placed a few inches beyond the trap so the fox cannot reach it from the bank but will use the trap pan as a stepping stone.

Two other types of sets commonly used are the mound set and the chaff-bed set. With all of these sets the trappers will use both scent and bait. The purpose of the scent is to attract the fox to the set and the bait will hold there until he steps in the trap or encourage him to return to the same location at a later time.

Trapping instructions serve only to show or tell the student how sets should be made, but it takes actual experience and practice to become a successful trapper. Amateur trappers should spend considerable time studying the habits and travel routes of the animals they plan to trap. Much knowledge can be acquired by preparing sets without traps well in advance of the season. Bait these sets and then observe what happens. Prior preparations will save a lot of time during the trapping seasons. In placing the traps try to do so in such a manner that you will not leave any human odor about the set. This precaution is not always necessary but is advisable if you hope to catch any fox

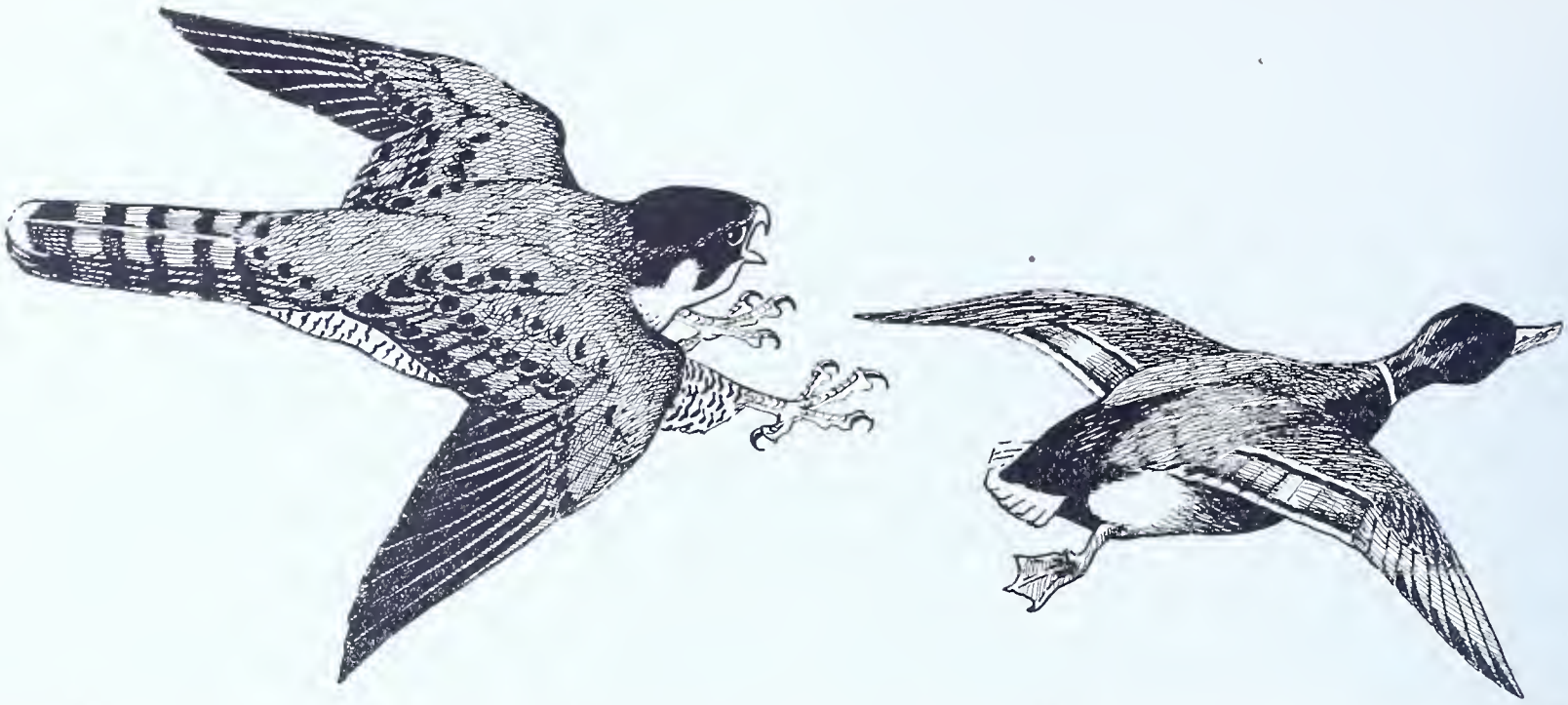
*(Continued on Page 30)*

**BURIED BAIT OR DIRT-HOLE SET**

**Staking down trap.**

**Trap ready to be covered.**

**Completed set.**



The Duck Hawk is too rare to be a serious menace to waterfowl, but they do prey constantly upon the slower flying ducks whenever they find them.

# NATURE'S DIVE BOMBERS

## By Sherman Lee Pruitt

*Illustrations by Jacob Bates Abbott*

I realize that in the following paragraphs my article may stir up quite a bit of controversy in certain quarters, but before I go any further I want to emphasize the fact that I do *not* have a bone to pick with *any* type of sportsmen; I merely want to set down in black and white for the record my observations on the much maligned Hawk and Owl. While I do not hold a college degree on biology I *have* followed wilderness trails in some twenty-five States, Mexico and Canada. Having noted the actions of the so called predators during the four seasons, and gathered bits of evidence from many sources, I say it is idiotic to blame hawks or owls for game scarcities. Of course that is just one man's opinion, but be that as it may here are my views and findings:

Back in the dim, dead past of centuries gone, one can picture primeval America before Man, the great destroyer, appeared on the scene. Vast forests, crystal streams teeming with game fish, pure sapphire-blue lakes, open prairies populated with uncounted millions of deer, bison, elk, bears, antelopes and myriads of small game birds such as quail, grouse, woodcock and the fabulous passenger pigeon. Mountains harbored various species of wildlife. All this could still be with us if man had not tried to change the face of an unchanging nature.

There were present also in those primeval days in uncounted millions predators among which were hawks, owls, coyotes, foxes, wolves, crows, magpies and other lesser so-called destroyers of game. Mark this well, fellow sportsman, there were no hunters then, armed with scatterguns, repeating rifles et al. The primitive savage was abroad with his crude bow and arrow or spear. He took only what game was needed at the moment to sustain life in those raw, wild days. Can anyone who possesses one grain of common sense say that predators are responsible for the millions of acres of barren, eroded, wastes where not even a mole could now exist? I think not. Yet there are men who blame the lack of game on hawks or owls—silly and childish theory.

Let me cite an example: A sportsman farmer friend of mine owns a hunting preserve of 1,000 acres. It is situated in the rolling hills of York County, Pennsylvania. My friend has, through hard work and commonsense methods planted thickets of honeysuckle, scrub oak, virginia creeper, dwarf pine and other shrubs. There are also food plots of Lespedeza, kaffir corn, millet, buckwheat, etc., planted every season for the benefit of quail, pheasants, rabbits, songbirds and other wildlife. There is small game in abundance living on my friend's acres simply because he has created a natural home for his feathered and furred boarders. And remember this, my fellow nimrods, my friend will not shoot *any* species of hawk or owl nor will any guest if he or she wishes to remain a welcome visitor.

On clear, sunny days one can observe a score of hawks gliding in the air currents above my friend's place. The occasional quail or small bird that is taken is more than made up by the hawk's habit of preying on field mice, rats, small snakes, grasshoppers and other vermin. If only for their esthetic value owls and hawks should be protected at all times.

Owls play an important role in nature's scheme. Mice and field rats make up about eighty percent of the average owl's menu. Also included in the owl's diet are snakes and to some extent moles and weasels. The smaller species of owl prey almost wholly on mice, young field rats and other small non-game creatures. In the far west owls subsist in some areas on ground squirrels, gophers, prairie dogs and young rabbits.

The great horned owl is painted a black hue indeed by those outdoorsmen who have come upon bloody remains of a grouse or rabbit while patrolling the winter woods, but be that as it may this powerful feathered ghost also destroys countless numbers of rats, weasels and other vermin. Incidentally, the great horned owl is not plentiful in most areas, and can never increase enough to harm grouse or rabbits seriously.

The Game Commission of Pennsylvania has through painstaking research and just plain hard work brought deer, bears, beavers, rabbits, pheasants, grouse and lesser game back to the Commonwealth's woods and fields in unbelievable numbers. While the Commission advocates thinning out of predators in areas where they are concentrated in great numbers, it emphatically believes in hawks, owls, foxes, et al as part of nature's scheme. When foxes, horned owls or crows become too numerous they are thinned out, *not exterminated.*

The writer resides close by a large tract

of land (2,000 acres) that lies just outside the limits of a big city. The area is a game refuge and contains thick cover of every type. There are quail, pheasants, woodcocks, cottontail rabbits, gray squirrels, raccoons, opossums and countless song and insectivorous birds within the big refuge's borders. The area is a nature lover's paradise. I have observed hawks and owls closely during periods when snow covered the ground and cover was thin. I have known only two instances in twenty years where quail were slain by hawks. During periods of severe zero weather many predators migrate southward. It is then that great concentrations of predatory birds may prey on game birds. Hunger drives the marauders to kill game when they would otherwise take non-game birds or animals.

Hawks and owls render a great service in some areas where the starling and English sparrow have become pests by destroying these noisy, raucous birds. Certainly in some states the common starling has become a problem due to the birds tremendous increase and its habit of driving away more desirable birds. The slow flying starling is easy prey for the swift hawk and velvet-winged owl.

Common varieties of hawks found in the United States are the sparrow, Coopers, red-shouldered, sharp-shinned and marsh hawks. The duck hawk or falcon is rare and this feathered meteor should be protected at all times. It is just not possible that the kingly falcon can ever be a real menace to game birds. The flight of this feathered rocket is sheer poetry and ornithologists place it among the swiftest of all birds.

The little sparrow hawk is, contrary to popular belief, mainly an insect killer and mouser; when it does go for birds it usually takes the common sparrow.

The Cooper's hawk is a chicken thief but this large bird also takes rats, mice and snakes.

The marsh hawk frequents marshes and swamps and is a slow flyer. It is not plentiful enough to harm birdlife. It takes rats, mice, birds and some ducks. Where snakes abound in marshy areas this hawk kills countless numbers of the reptiles.

The sharp-shin feeds on some small game, particularly quail and woodcocks, but this feathered marauder also destroys snakes, field mice, weasels, gophers et al. This beautiful bird of prey is, like most of the other hawks, just not plentiful enough to cause undue alarm in game circles.

There are a thousand factors to take into consideration when one studies hawks or owls. In a state like South Dakota, for instance, hawks will prey on pheasants simply because the ringnecks are there by the million. Where starlings and common sparrows are numerous hawks will make these noisy birds their main bill of fare.

If there is plenty of good cover available the sportsman need have no fear for his beloved grouse and quail for these two birds are past masters at the art of skulking and hawk dodging. The improvement of hunting can only be achieved through cover improvement and the planting of food plots. This we must do if we desire better shooting. It is sheer idiocy to blame hawks or owls for game scarcity.

# Some Birds Of Prey Are Not As Black As They Are Painted

I once visited a friend in Washington, D. C. He resided on one of the busiest thoroughfares in the Capitol city. A family of sparrow hawks nested in his yard in a hollow-tree and several times I noted the male bird perched on a limb near the nest, perfectly oblivious to the stream of motor traffic that poured by the front door.

In fact hawks will live and raise families in any section of the country as long as food and nesting sites are available. They are among our most interesting birds.

One of the most memorable experience the writer has ever had in over twenty-five years of following outdoor trails occurred up in the Pennsylvania Poconos near Hawley.

With a friend one bright May morning I suddenly discovered a red-shouldered hawk's nest in an old, half dead pin-oak. It was constructed of twigs, bark and was almost as large as an osprey's nest. We decided to climb the tree and view the nest. I started up the old tree and was almost to the nest when suddenly a feathered fury struck my bare head. It was the male hawk. A few moments later the female appeared on the scene, and my friend and I quickly decided that discretion was the better part of valor and we repaired to terra firma. For over an hour we watched the royal pair circle the tree then we departed to disturb no more the eyrie of the feathered controlled if shooting in America is to bombs. Obviously there were several young birds in the nest.

I once heard a yarn anent hawks that goes thus: Four "Sportsmen" were out gunning on a friend's farm. It was getting on to dusk and they were returning to the farmhouse laden with their game. Between them they had killed twenty quail, ten pheasants, eight rabbits and several ducks. One of the quartet had slain a cow by mistake, and another misguided nimrod had started a brush fire with a carelessly tossed cigaret butt. As they topped the last hill overlooking the farmhouse a small hawk flew up out of a thicket. One of the "heroes" yelled: "Kill that filthy hawk, he'll ruin our sport." There came a sharp blast of nitro and the poor hawk fell dead. You can fill in the rest yourself.

The greatest destroyers of game we have to contend with are not hawks or owls, but the ever present menace of brush and forest fires. Fires kill more game than an army of hunters. Even if game is not destroyed by fire the habitat is wiped out and that means less game reservoirs for the state's hunters.

Hunting house cats and wild homeless dogs account for millions of quail, pheasants, rabbits and some deer. Stray, field hunting house cats are perhaps the greatest single menace to small game today—they must be controlled if shooting in America is to survive. Crows have increased by millions over the continent and must be checked or quail, grouse and ducks will suffer ter-

*(Continued on Page 27)*

**The Barred Owl helps greatly to control mice, rats and other small rodents.**

# LONG-TERM PLANNING

*Editor's Note*—In last month's editorial we mentioned briefly the Commission's Long-Term Planning Program and how it will function. Beginning this issue we are publishing the objectives of that program as they apply to each major operation. All of them have been based upon suggestions submitted to the Commission by its employes and others interested. The first of these analyses, dealing with the Land Management Program, follows.

## STATE GAME LAND MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

(Based Upon Suggestions Submitted to Commission By Its Employes and Others Interested, and Revised on August 22, 1944)

### GENERAL POLICY

The Commission's general policy on land management was developed without following any predetermined course or a uniform pattern. Until recent years this program consisted primarily of protection against forest fires, maintenance of boundary lines, refuges and hunting grounds, and the control of predators. Lands were purchased but no detailed plans made for their utilization and development. The Commission proceeded on the general theory that lands acquired in forest regions should be maintained on much the same basis as State Forests, and that as timber crops became available for harvesting selective cutting programs would automatically bring about needed improvements in wildlife habitats.

More recently it was found desirable to purchase sub-marginal farms, interspersed with wooded areas, so that certain game species which thrive only in agricultural regions might be increased and better hunting opportunities assured near heavily populated centers. Unfortunately, most of these purchases are comparatively small and do not accommodate large numbers of hunters, regardless of the management practices that may be applied. Considerable portions of such lands must be tilled regularly to maintain their productiveness for farm-game species, also to prevent reversion to forest growth.

As the need for developing State Game Lands to assure maximum annual game crops became apparent, various management techniques have been tried on an experimental basis. The Commission's entire lands program has now reached a stage where new long-term practices must be applied, based on sound managerial planning. The Commission should decide, as a future fixed policy, to manage its State Game Lands primarily to produce game crops rather than commercial timber products, and to develop a progressive long-term management program along the lines suggested at the conference of March 8, 1944. (After the Commission considers the suggestions below estimates of funds and additional personnel can be prepared).

| | Current Practices | Immediate Changes Recommended | Future Program Recommendations |
|---|---|---|---|
| **A. BASIC INFORMATION AND PLANNING** | | | |
| 1. Survey of Soils, Cover, Food, Waters, Topography, and Wildlife Populations | General surveys only made prior to purchases. Program of cover mapping started recently to obtain preliminary information, and to record major items of work performed to date. | Initiate complete surveys on all State Game Lands, including the preparation of maps, etc., as needed for future planning. Personnel limited at present. | As rapidly as trained help becomes available, complete fundamental surveys and maps for all State Game Lands. In the future make such studies before lands are recommended for purchase, except in the case of interior holdings and tracts needed to straighten boundaries.<br>Note: Some members of the staff question the wisdom of such complete surveys, except in the case of submarginal land purchases. |
| 2. Plans for Long-Term Use | Purchases up to a decade ago were made primarily for deer, but no specific long-term detailed plans were devised for the use or development of any lands before or after they were acquired. Little consideration was given to the particular species for which the lands should be developed and maintained. | A long-term plan of development and use should be worked out for each tract as help becomes available. In such plans it should be decided which species of game shall be given primary consideration so that management programs may be devised accordingly. | Complete plans in previous column. In the future, develop a tentative management plan of any tract which is recommended for purchase, except in the case of interior holdings and purchases to adjust boundaries. |
| 3. Research (To be executed by a Research and Planning Division) | No conclusive research work on game land management practices or the development of proper environments has been done. One Federal-Aid Project partially completed, and a fertilization study recently initiated at State College. | A comprehensive research program should be developed to obtain fundamental information to determine what feasible management practices will accomplish the desired results. | Much larger Federal-Aid appropriations are anticipated after the war, which will enable the Commission to expand its land management research studies and continue them over a sufficient period to obtain conclusive results. Such research work is a vital part of sound management and should be maintained even though the entire cost must be paid from State Game Funds.<br>Information badly needed on plant successions and food producing value of various trees, shrubs and plants for wildlife improvement; also how best to increase those which are most desirable and to improve their annual fruit crops. |

### B. MANAGEMENT

The first requisite of a management program for each tract of State Game Lands is a plan of development as determined from factual surveys, and dependent upon the particular purposes for which they are to be used. With such a plan the steps necessary for the protection, development, and administration thereof can then be executed in their proper order All the items suggested below will not necessarily apply to every tract, but are recommended as general outlines to be followed as needed.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Development<br>(a) Fire Protection and Boundary Lines | From the beginning the Commission's system of Fire Protection and Boundary Lines has been outstanding. Boundary lines in most instances have been used as fire trails and brushed accordingly. Sometimes such lines parallel nearby roads and other trails which provide adequate protection, and opening the former was therefore not justified. | Due to labor shortages brushing out boundary lines has been discontinued, except where they are important for fire protection. Unless boundary lines are so used they should only be painted and tagged periodically, and kept free of windfalls with such limited brushing as may be necessary to expedite travel afoot. | Paint and tag but refrain from brushing out boundary lines, except as indicated in previous column, unless they are to be used as fire trails. Where growth is too sparse to mark boundaries well, a cut trail with suitable markers at regular intervals is essential.<br>Note: (1) Several employes strongly feel that unless all boundary lines are brushed out regularly their identity will be lost and resurveying will become necessary periodically.<br>Note: (2) A number of employes have suggested that the Commission's standard boundary line paint be red but white was selected because all private landowners use either red or yellow. |

| | Current Practices | Immediate Changes Recommended | Future Program Recommendations |
|---|---|---|---|
| **(b) Timber Management and Cuttings** | Extensive cuttings have been made and lumbering agreements negotiated wherever feasible, but this work was not done on any predetermined schedule or plan. | For the duration about all that can be done is to dispose of merchantable timber and conduct a limited amount of improvement cuttinga.<br>Note: It is suggested that timber contracts be made flexible enough to encourage the removal of any products within prescribed diameter limits which the operator can market.<br>Cognizance has been taken of this and steps initiated to include it in new timber contracts. | Develop a definite schedule for each block of land, after subdividing it into units of suitable size, so that the timber may be removed and improvement cuttings made in accordance with a fixed rotation schedule or plan. Expand release cuttings to increase production of grapes and other food-producing plants. Also provide forest openings, food plots, etc.<br>Note: One Division Supervisor has submitted a recommendation that the Commission immediately launch a series of controlled burning operations to increase food and cover for wildlife, principally deer. Research studies and experimental work on this subject interrupted by the war. When passing upon the State Game Land Management Program the Commission may desire to discuss this matter further. |
| **(c) Erosion Control and Soil Fertility** | Nothing done except to increase fertility of lands planted as food plots. Erosion control work practically negligible. | As rapidly as fundamental information becomes available, develop practical erosion control and soil fertility programs wherever needed. Apply known soil erosion control measures in connection with all food plot and share cropping programs, especially contour farming. | Continue procedure recommended in previous column and expand such undertakings as far as basic surveys determine the needs. |
| **(d) Food Plots and Share Cropping** | Food plots have been extensively developed; share cropping has been utilized where possible. Farming large areas of agricultural land by Commission employes to grow grain for winter feeding throughout the Divisions has been discouraged. Fields untilled rapidly revert to brush and forests, and soon lose their value for farm-game species. | Use of the Pennsylvania Food Plot Mixture has been reduced to a minimum, and grains which thrive in each locality utilized instead. Studies of available grasses may suggest better ways to use some of former cultivated plots, and can be tried out immediately on a rather extensive scale to supply food and cover, and to prevent such lands from reverting to forests. | Continue plan as in the past, but change procedures and expand the share cropping program on all tillable lands as necessary to maintain proper small game habitats, and soil fertility. Develop numerous new foods and grass plots as justified by detailed surveys. |
| **(e) Seedlings** | Under present program large annual seedling planting programs have been conducted, mostly with trees obtained from the State Forest Nurseries. Most of the latter have been used to improve the game cover, but generally the same species and planting methods were used as those adopted by foresters to provide future timber crops. Food-bearing shrubs and trees, grapevine cuttings, etc., have been planted or transferred in large quantities. Much of this planting has been done without predetermined schedules, and the results in the main have been unsatisfactory. | Extensive plantings should be discontinued, at least for the duration, the only exception being such transfer work as regular employes can handle in conjunction with other duties.<br>Arrangements with Clearfield Nursery to grow special food-bearing stock recently cancelled, and purchase of seedlings from commercial nurseries approved. This will make it possible to obtain a wider selection of desired stock at lower cost. | Investigations may indicate that in many areas the desirable food-bearing shrubs and plants will volunteer if proper forest openings are made, either through release cuttings or lumbering operations. Future nursery stock distribution to be based upon actual needs on each tract of land, and in accordance with a predetermined program.<br>Plant principally food-bearing and dense cover species rather than the conifers commonly used for commercial timber crops. Obtainable by transfer or from reliable commercial growers. |
| **(f) Refuges** | Originally, refuges 2,000 to 3,000 acres each were established on State Forests and State Game Lands, primarily for deer Later, numerous smaller refuges were created and some of the large ones reduced in size. Where public lands were not available, Auxiliary Refuges were established on privately-owned lands leased for that purpose. | Due to changed conditions, many of the remaining original game refuges have outlived their usefulness and should be abandoned, materially reduced in size, or shifted to more suitable territory nearby. Under present conditions, maintenance of refuges containing 2,000 or more acres is not justified except where needed to protect bears. In recent years progress has been made in directions above indicated but the entire refuge program should be re-studied and re-vamped as rapidly as manpower becomes available. | Since refuges as a game management medium in forest country have served their major usefulness insofar as deer are concerned, none should be established in such localities in the future except where they will benefit small game. Complete recommendations in previous column, and intensify cover and food improvement work within all refuges.<br>The Auxiliary Refuge Program on private lands, other than on Farm-Game Projects, should be discontinued as current agreements expire, unless they are actually serving a useful public purpose. Where it is essential to the Commission's program to continue protected areas now classed as Auxiliary Refuges many of them should be changed to State Game Propagation Areas, provided the annual prospective production of game for distribution purposes will justify. |
| **(g) Impounded Waters and Stream Improvement** | In only a few instances has the Commission undertaken any water impoundments. These were done with relief labor. The Commission has undertaken no stream improvement, but permission was granted various public agencies to do such work with relief labor. Much of it was of questionable value. | Necessary engineering and ecological studies should be made to determine where water impoundments are feasible on State Game Lands to benefit waterfowl and fur-bearers. These studies essential to development of future program.<br>No stream improvement work should be permitted on State Game Lands (other than those we initiate to benefit waterfowl and fur-bearers), unless the Fish Commission, under proper cooperative agreements, sponsors and supervises the work. | Water impoundments which studies indicate will definitely benefit wildlife, especially waterfowl and fur-bearers, should be made an important phase of the Commission's future program. Many of them may probably be so designed that they will also aid in the flood control and fisheries programs.<br>Stream improvement work only as indicated in the previous column. |

*(Turn Page)*

BUY BONDS BUY BONDS BUY BONDS

| | Current Practices | Immediate Changes Recommended | Future Program Recommendations |
|---|---|---|---|
| (h) Roads and Trails | To date, roads and fire trails on State Game Lands have been constructed primarily to facilitate administration and forest fire protection.<br>Roads through forest areas provide openings the edges of which supply food, and they are used extensively as dusting places by grouse and other game and can be maintained more easily to serve these purposes than detached scattered openings throughout the forest. | Basic surveys will indicate the number and location of roads and fire trails needed for the purposes indicated in the previous column. Roads and trails are also needed for the removal of forest products.<br>On larger tracts (such as No. 57, Wyoming Co., 44 and 54, Elk and Jefferson Cos., and 127, Monroe Co.—Bradys Lake) roads into the heart of the area should be opened for the convenience of the hunting public. Trails leading from such main trunk roads should be established for the use of the hunters to make interior portions of the lands accessible. | Complete recommendations in previous column, all to be based on careful studies as to needs in each case. Continue to keep all roads, other than those designated as trunk roads on the larger tracts, closed to the public.<br>As part of the future land management program, an extensive system of foot trails, adequately marked, is needed not only for fire protection but also to make all portions of the lands usable and assure a better distribution of hunting populations. (Many remote sections on State Game Lands contribute to our "deer headaches" because they are not hunted due to their inaccessibility to the average sportsman). |
| 2. Maintenance | The current maintenance practices should largely be continued, except those recommended for discontinuance under Development above.<br>An important phase of maintenance work which had been more or less neglected, namely, the control of predators, was re-established during the past winter.<br>Remote land management headquarters have been abandoned and officers located better to manage their respective groups. | No immediate changes needed other than as above indicated. Much maintenance work, especially on roads and trails, has accumulated and awaits availability of labor, supplies and equipment.<br>Continue special emphasis on control of predators stressing the economic and recreational values in order to obtain the assistance of the general public. Provide additional assistance for predator control in accordance with current plans. | Develop complete game lands rehabilitation program to be executed when manpower, supplies and equipment become available.<br>Sub-divide land management units and add such additional number of protectors as necessary to equalize the volume of work and enable each of them to intensify development activities.<br>Abandon additional remote land management headquarters wherever officers are not advantageously located and dispose of buildings, in accordance with Commission policy. |
| 3. Annual Inventory | An annual inventory is made of all property (buildings, equipment, etc.) and statistical records of accomplishments have been maintained. Within the past two years a uniform system of recording management work was devised and permanent improvements and lumbering operations were recorded on maps of the respective State Game lands. | None recommended until complete physical information, as above indicated in Item "A", becomes available. | Since in the future all management work is to be based on preliminary surveys and planning, annual inventories of accomplishments must be made in order that the progress of each management activity may be shown in chronological sequence. This will be invaluable both as a record of work done and an aid to further planning. |

## GAME LAND MANAGEMENT

### Cooperative Farm-Game Project Recommendations

**GENERAL POLICY**

The Cooperative Farm-Game Program was launched in 1936 in an effort to bring the benefits of the refuge and public hunting grounds system, as developed in the forest country, nearer the larger centers of population where sizeable blocks of lands cannot be purchased at economically feasible prices. The program was initiated primarily to provide good public hunting grounds in sections where the lands have mostly been posted, and where farm-game species thrive—on the farms.

Mutually satisfactory agreements are negotiated with the landowners for the hunting rights, in return for which they receive protection to their property.

This program is now applicable to 27 counties, 14 in southeastern Pennsylvania, and 13 in western Pennsylvania. While to date it has been maintained largely on an experimental basis, it has definitely proven its worth and expansion along sound lines is justified.

In the beginning the minimum initial acreage in any project was 300 acres. This minimum has been increased to 2,000 acres, with a permissible maximum of 10,000 or more acres. Management experience has indicated that projects of 5,000 to 10,000 acres can be administered more economically per acre than smaller ones.

Not to exceed one-third of any project may be used for refuge and safety zones. At present one acre is closed to every four open to hunting, on a total of 150,000 acres.

**Note:** (1) Various employes have recommended that in securing agreements for these projects the signature of the husband only should be accepted, instead of requiring both husband and wife to sign as has been the practice. This change is recommended.

**Note:** (2) In the past cooperators have been permitted to raise pheasants to six weeks only. It is recommended that this program be changed in the future to require such landowners to hold the birds until they are ten weeks of age before releasing, and increase the rate of compensation accordingly.

| | Current Practices | Immediate Changes Recommended | Future Program Recommendations |
|---|---|---|---|
| COOPERATIVE FARM-GAME PROJECTS<br>1. Management and Development | Refuges averaging 8 acres each are established as conditions warrant, mostly where they will not interfere with farm activities, and safety zones are posted around farm buildings annually and removed at close of the season.<br>Establishment of refuges, and posting of safety zones and special protection signs, handled by our own officers and employed labor.<br>Food plots have been planted in refuges where conditions are favorable, and strips of grain purchased adjacent thereto as deemed necessary.<br>Landowners are compensated for any services rendered, and are encouraged to raise pheasants on a paid basis.<br>No special development programs undertaken other than above. | Each project is stocked annually but little effort has been made to increase the game carrying capacity by improving the natural environment in cooperation with the landowners.<br>Duties of regular District officers have not permitted close contact with individual landowners, nor has help been available for development work.<br>As an experiment, an experienced Deputy Protector is now temporarily employed on a full-time basis to devote himself to the development and expansion of the seven farm-game projects in Montgomery County, containing 15,698.3 acres and comprising 324 farms. As part of his duties he will do a public relations job among the cooperators, control predators, and oversee the protection of the projects during the hunting season. | Provided the experimental results justify it, the farm-game program can be greatly expanded and developed through the employment of capable men to specialize in this phase of the work.<br>Food and cover planting programs, as determined by Technicians, should be undertaken on each farm wherever the land-owner can be persuaded to permit it, preferably with his active participation. Planting stock should be purchased from commercial producers as needed. Cost negligible.<br>On the basis of anticipated hunting pressure, the Commission will be justified in planning an expansion of this program to an area comparable in size to its present land holdings. Ultimately, it may be found desirable to maintain twice as much farm-game acreage as forest game lands. The Commission may desire to extend the program to other agricultural counties where posting is a problem.<br>If properly managed, farm-game projects should not only produce a self-sustaining game crop but also supply a considerable number of rabbits and other game for transfer purposes, in connection with which the land owners can be compensated for their services. |

| | Current Practices | Immediate Changes Recommended | Future Program Recommendations |
|---|---|---|---|
| **2. Protection** | The protection afforded cooperating farmers consists chiefly of safety zones established around all occupied buildings, special signs appealing for cooperation to protect their property, and warning shooters to stay out of areas where they are working.<br>Deputy Game Protectors are employed to patrol the various projects during the small game season. Due to the shortage of manpower it has recently been difficult to supply sufficient protection. | Endeavor to provide sufficient Deputy help so that all portions of the projects can be visited at least once daily during the open season. Regular officers unable to devote any considerable amount of time, other than supervisory, to these projects during the season. | The same as column 2, plus a reasonable amount of pre-season law enforcement work by employed Deputies. |

## GAME LAND MANAGEMENT

### State Game Propagation Area Recommendations

**GENERAL POLICY**

The establishment of State Game Propagation Areas was authorized by the 1937 Legislature. The purpose of them is to establish protected areas from which rabbits and other game may be trapped and transferred annually. They are created on private lands where a regular refuge unit, surrounded by public hunting grounds, would not be feasible. These areas are not intended to take the place of any part of the regular refuge system. This program is still in the experimental stage, and little intensive development work of any character has been undertaken.

| | Current Practices | Immediate Changes Recommended | Future Program Recommendations |
|---|---|---|---|
| **STATE GAME PROPAGATION AREAS** | Propagation areas have been established largely on recommendations from field officers. Frequently they were not wisely selected, and many of them have failed to produce sufficient transferred game to warrant the cost of their continuance.<br>A few unproductive areas have been eliminated, and greater care is now being taken in the selection of new ones. | All State Game Propagation Areas should be re-studied and those which have not been producing stock for transfer eliminated.<br>Game Technicians should be held responsible for passing upon the desirability of each project before it is accepted, and they should devise a detailed plan of development for each which will assure the desired results. | A greatly expanded system of State Game Propagation Areas should be established which will accomplish the desired objectives. They must be developed intensively and managed wisely.<br>Members of the Staff who have studied the problem believe portions of existing game lands can be used for this purpose if set aside as refuges and developed properly, but it is doubtful whether the Commission could justify the purchase of numerous small tracts of land to be used solely for rabbit propagation and transfer.<br>Expansion and better development of this program is recommended. |

## GAME LAND MANAGEMENT

### Information Concerning Other Projects

**Special Preserves** (Archery and Dog Training)

The Commission under authority of law is maintaining two Archery Preserves—one on State Game Lands, the other on the Allegheny National Forest; also under varying use regulations a total of five Special Dog Training Preserves—two located on State Game Lands, three on publicly-owned lands. The Commission is not limited in the number of Dog Training Preserves that may be established.

**Special Wildlife Refuge Projects**

In 1939 the Legislature authorized the establishment of Special Wildlife Refuge Projects, sponsored by sportsmen's organizations, the Commission furnishing the posters. It was hoped this would furnish a vehicle through which sportsmen's organizations might sponsor the development of refuges protected by the State Game Law, surrounded by public hunting grounds, with limited assistance from the Commission. The program has so far not been a success, largely due to the lack of continued interest on the part of sponsoring groups. **Unless proper interest is evidenced in this program after the war, it is recommended that this feature of the Law be repealed.**

# Pheasant Stampede

*(Continued from page 3)*

saucers. I've seen some strange things in my days, but friend, this took the auction. It warn't so, but there it was! Old Willoughby was out with a twelve gauge, and he yelled: 'Watch out! The blasted fools chased granny into the pig sty already, and I've killed ten in self-defense! Watch out!'

"But poor Willoughby had made a mistake, turning his head from the pheasants. He vanished in a cloud of feathers and claws, screamin', while a dozen crazy birds watched and danced with glee! He got to his feet, and dashed like mad for the barn. He made it; I saw to that; then I beat it into the house, a mighty scared man.

"Friend, that was the start. For the only time in history, pheasants hunted hunters. Lots of people just bolted their doors and shot their limit out'n the bedroom window. If they went outside, them drunken birds would chase 'em right back to the house!"

Samson Nimrod sighed. "It sure was a mess. Them pheasants went into the general store, into the saloon, into houses—everywhere. Every now and then you'd see one fly away, bound for old Willoughby's corn field to stoke up again. The cops were out, the fire department of Emmaus came over, the state cops came in, and finally the national guard. It was two days before somebody caught on and set a match to the corn field!"

Doc Peavy, Sam Jackson and I,—and the dogs,—were silent through all this. What was there to say?

The stranger, too, was speechless. But before Samson Nimrod raced on (and I assure one and all, he wasn't finished by a long shot), the stranger asked again: "Please, where is Willoughby Snitzel's place? It is important—"

"Ain't you heared of Willoughby's famous sawed-off shotgun—"

The stranger moved away. Obviously, he could take no more. He was crying enough. I could feel for him; long had Nimrod's tales whirred across my nerves like a coarse rat-tail file.

**Orphaned fawns.**

Samson Nimrod, fathoming at long last that the stranger was not good for one tale more, said: "You go up the street one-half mile—right through town. You turn left at the first pitch road after you cross the railroad tracks. You pass two gravel crossroads and then turn left. You—" And so on, until theoretically the stranger had arrived at Willoughby Snitzel's front door.

The stranger stood five minutes, asking questions, verifying, committing to memory. Then, still somewhat puzzled, he started out on his journey . . .

After he was gone, Doc Peavy asked: "You darn fool! Why didn't you tell him you lived with Willoughby Snitzel and could take him to the place in a few minutes?"

Nimrod's face lighted. "I never thought of that!" he exclaimed. He settled himself on the rough bench and prepared to wind up with another tale. "Anyhow, the guy never asked me nothin' about where I lived!"

As we exchanged incredulous glances, Nimrod said, "Did I ever tell you about the time—"

# ★ ★ ★ CURRENT TOPICS ★ ★ ★

Photo by Ray Scott.
Left to right: Max Manbeck, Rodney Hambright and Bob Metz from the Spigelmeyer camp in Juniata County display three nice 8-pointers shot the first two days last season.

## NOTICE TO SPORTSMEN—Bounty Payments . . .

"WHEREAS, Notwithstanding the successful predator control campaign waged by our employees and interested sportsmen during the past year, the statewide predator population of the Commonwealth, except in the case of the weasel, has not been reduced as anticipated due to (1) the absence of many hunters and trappers in the Armed Services, (2) pressing wartime occupational duties and travel restrictions, and (3) low fur prices as well as unfavorable trapping conditions last winter; and

"WHEREAS, The members of the Predator Control Committee, after exhaustive study, recommend to the Commission that bounties now in effect be continued and that a bounty be placed on the red fox in all counties except those indicated; and

"WHEREAS, The Commission, after giving due consideration to said recommendations and reports from numerous dependable observers, is of the opinion that it is desirable to continue certain bounty rates heretofore established, and to pay rewards for the killing of other predators throughout the Commonwealth, except as indicated, in the hope of bringing about a reduction in the numbers of said creatures and better thereby to protect game;

"THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Pennsylvania Game Commission, acting under the powers and authority vested in it by the provisions of Article XI, Section 1101 of the Act of June 3, 1937, P. L. 1225, as amended by the Act of May 1, 1945 (Act No. 149), entitled 'An Act concerning game and other wild birds and wild animals; and amending, revising, consolidating, and changing the law relating thereto,' by resolution unanimously adopted this second day of May, 1945, hereby continues for one year from July 16, 1945, the rates of bounty for certain predators as established on May 6, 1944, and places a bounty on the red fox for a like period, said year to begin July 16, 1945, and expiring July 15, 1946, both dates inclusive, the payments herein authorized to be made for the birds and animals enumerated below when killed in a wild state in any county of the Commonwealth during the period specified if presented in the manner and under the conditions stipulated in the Act aforesaid, except that no bounty shall be paid for either gray or red foxes killed in the counties of Chester and Delaware where a special Act of the General Assembly restricts the killing of foxes to the protection of personal property, the rates of payment to be as follows:

1. *Gray Fox*—The current $4.00 bounty on the gray fox to be continued except as above indicated;
2. *Red Fox*—A bounty of $4.00 to be paid for the red fox except as above indicated;
3. *Weasel*—The $1.00 bounty on the weasel to be continued;
4. *Great-Horned Owl*—The bounty of $4.00 to be continued for adult great-horned owls and $2.00 for fledglings which have not left the nest; and
5. *Goshawk*—The bounty on the goshawk to be continued at $2.00 for adults and $1.00 for fledglings which have not left the nest.

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the foregoing resolution shall be duly published in accordance with the provisions of Section 1102 of Article XI of the Act aforesaid in the May and June 1945 issues of the PENNSYLVANIA GAME NEWS, this change in the rates of bounties also to be brought to the attention of the public through other available channels, the Executive Director being hereby authorized and directed to certify the foregoing rules and regulations as and for the act of the Pennsylvania Game Commission."

I hereby certify the above to be a full, true and correct copy of the resolution establishing bounties on certain predators killed in a wild state within the Commonwealth from July 16, 1945 to July 15 1946, inclusive, as adopted by the Pennsylvania Game Commission at a meeting held May 2, 1945 public notice of which action is published in accordance with the requirements of law.

SETH GORDON, *Executive Director,*
Pennsylvania Game Commission.

## NEW LEGISLATION

### SOIL CONSERVATION

(Act No. 217—Approved May 15, 1945)

This Act, to be known as the "Soil Conservation Law" of 1945, creates the State Soil Conservation Commission in the Department of Agriculture, and fixes its powers and duties relating to soil conservation, soil ero

sion, and land use practices contributing to soil wasteage and erosion. It authorizes County Commissioners to establish soil conservation districts, and makes provision for financial assistance to such districts. Its Declaration of Policy: To provide for conservation of soil and soil resourses of this Commonwealth; for control and prevention of soil erosion, thereby preserving natural resources; assist in flood control; preserve wildlife; protect public lands; and protect and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people. County and State appropriations are authorized.

### STRIP MINING

(Act No. 418—Approved May 31, 1945)

This act, to be known as the "Bituminous Coal Open Pit Mining Conservation Act," has for its purpose the conservation and improvement of areas of land affected in the mining of bituminous coal by the open pit or stripping method, to aid thereby in the protection of birds and other wildlife, to decrease soil erosion, to aid in the prevention of stream pollution, and generally to improve the use of said lands. The mine operator must register with the Pennsylvania Department of Mines and file bond at the rate of $200 per acre but not less than $2000 for the faithful performance of his obligations under the law to grade or level off and replace overburden to cover the exposed face of unmined coal, also to plant trees, shrubs, grasses, etc., all as prescribed in the Act, within one year after operations are terminated.

### FISHING

Act No. 47—Amends Section 220 of the Fish Law, authorizing the use of eel chutes in the Delaware River above Easton.

Act No. 23—Provides for the issuance of free fishing licenses for the duration of the present war to those in the armed forces of the United States who are hospitalized or in a convalescent camp within the Commonwealth.

Act. No. 246—Provides that no motor boat of more than five horse-power shall be operated on the inland waters of this Commonwealth in locations where such waters are one hundred eighty (180) feet or less in width. These restrictions do not apply to any motor boats or other watercraft engaged in commercial navigation.

---

Act No. 125—Provides that boats equipped with a motor not in excess of six horsepower may be used in that portion of Pymatuning Lake extending from the main dam near Jamestown northwardly to the causeway at or near Espyville. This Act will not become effective until ratified by the State of Ohio and Congress.

### CLEAN STREAMS

(Act No. 177—Approved May 8, 1945)

This act broadens the scope of the Pure Streams Act of 1937 by including silt, coal mine solids, rock debris, dirt and clay from

*(Continued on Page 30)*

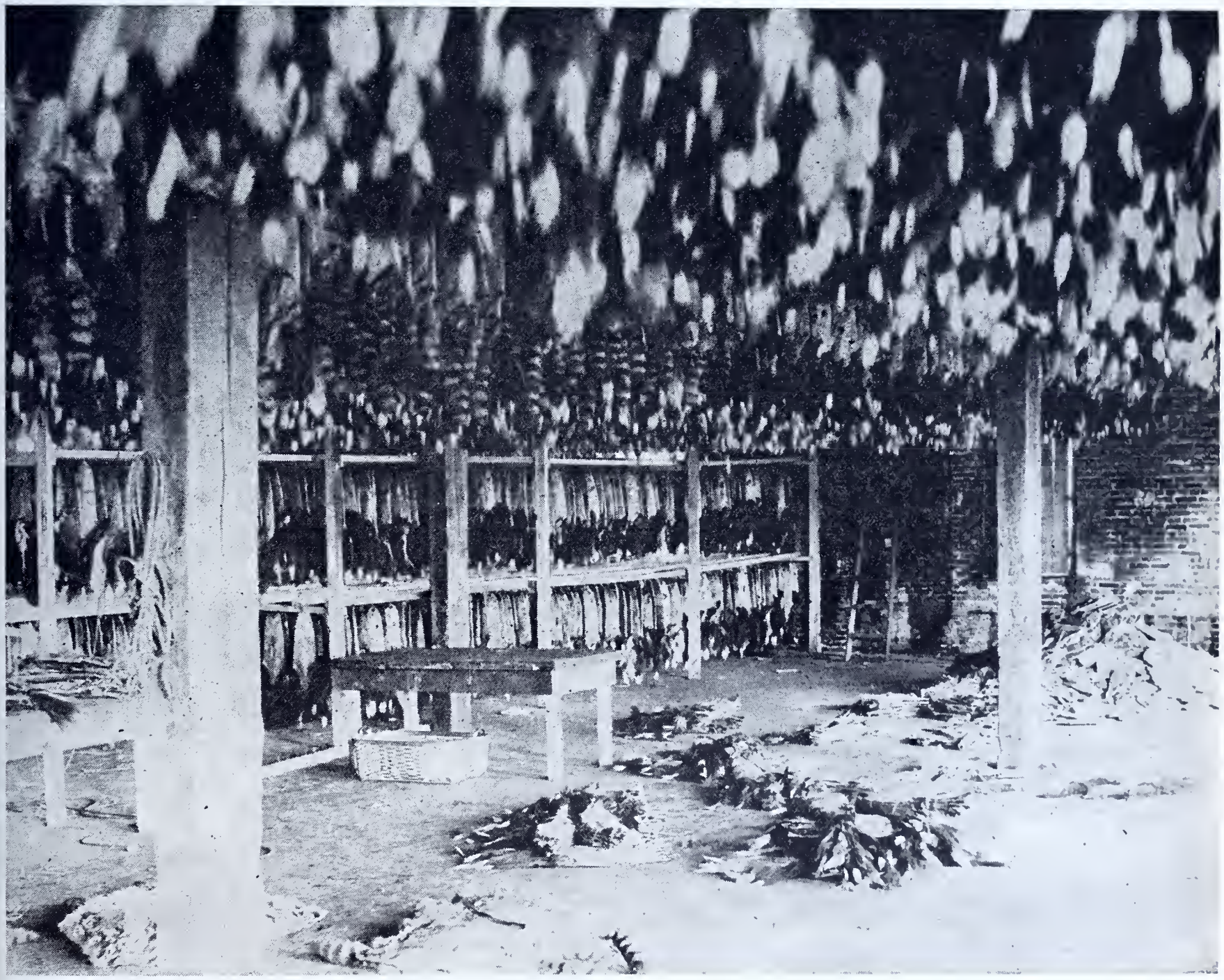
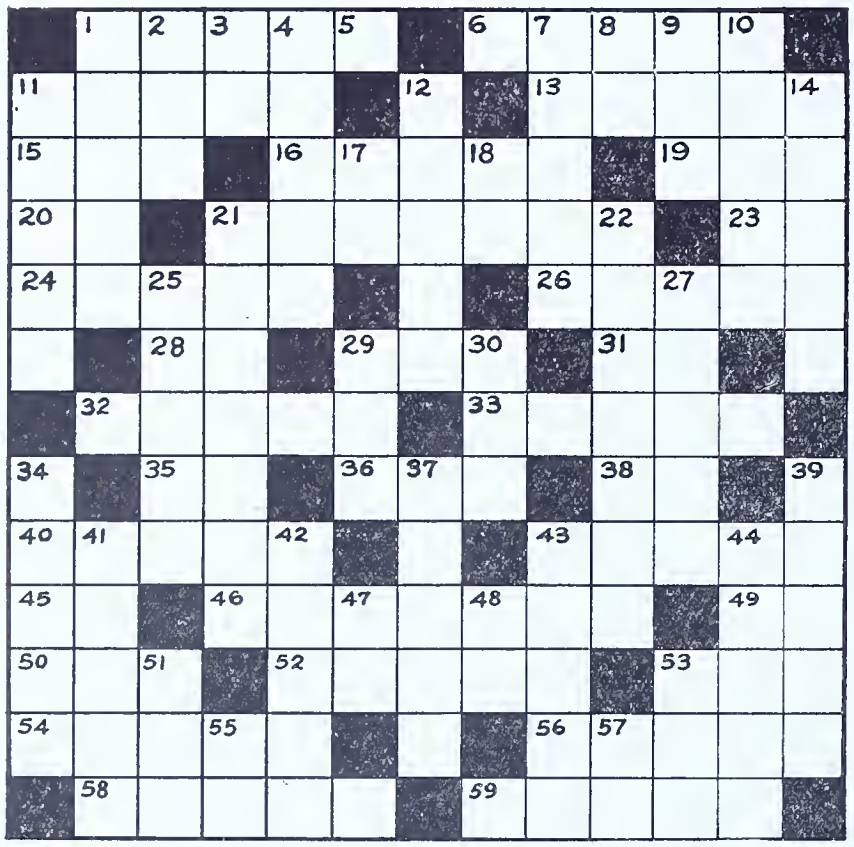


Photo by W. L. R. Drake.

**Jack F. Bentzel, fur-dealer, Millerstown, with part of 1943-44 catch purchased from local trappers. There is more to Pennsylvania's fur industry than appears on the surface. That is why the Game Commission hopes as part of its future program to make exhaustive management studies of the State's numerous fur-bearers.**

## A NATURE CROSS-WORD PUZZLE
### BY THE EDITOR



**HORIZONTAL**

1—A long-billed game bird.
6—A large wading bird with long legs and neck.
11—Material used in building.
13—An Indian tribe.
15—Armed conflict.
16—Fierce animals of Africa.
19—An Eastern railroad (init.).
20—Preposition.
21—Battle implement of Indian.
23—Abbreviation for "each."
24—Structures in which birds' eggs are laid.
26—To separate with a sieve (third person, present tense, singular).
28—A parent (colloquial).
29—A tree.
31—A river in Italy.
32—A powerful bird of prey.
33—To loathe.
35—Position occupied by football player (abbrev.)
36—A quantity.
38—Latin (neuter) for "that."
40—Yarns.
43—A mixture, used as a glue.
45—Material for uniform (aabrev.).
46—What a certain snake does.
49—Part of verb "to be."
50—Girl's name.
52—To come apart in pieces.
53—American Protective Union (abbrev.).
54—Male voice.
56—In a state of activity.
58—One who dines.
59—Goose (Latin).

**VERTICAL**

1—A commonwealth.
2—Conjunction.
3—Preposition.
4—A raw hide (Plural).
7—Flowers (Spanish).
8—Conjunction.
9—A short slumber.
10—A species of heron.
11—Graceful water birds.
12—A pheasant of Asia.
14—Rub out.
17—Species of moth.
18—A point of the compass (abbrev.).
21—To walk uncertainly.
22—A swordfish (Latin name).
25—Adjective denoting size.
27—Nutriment (plu.).
29—An elongated fish.
30—A fibrous covering for part of table or floor.
34—A weasel; an ermine in summer.
37—A fish-eating mammal of the weasel family.
39—Monkey-like animal of Africa and Madagascar.
41—Summed up.
42—A sword.
43—The American Fisher.
44—A South American hog-like quadruped.
47—Famous American (initials).
48—Southern State (abbrev.).
51—Tropical bird, allied to cuckoo.
53—Past tense of eat.
55—Preposition.
57—Sunday School (abbrev.).

Your editor worked this puzzle up about ten years ago just for fun. Perhaps some of our readers would like to try their hand at it. The more the merrier.

---

A lot of readers enjoyed the narrative "Dear Sirs" by Gary Lee, and many of them guessed correctly that Gary Lee was a pen name. "Who is he?" they ask. Your editor promised not to tell, but being tired of hearing the question he is going to supply the answer. Gary Lee is Game Protector Clarence F. Walker, Beavertown, Pa., the officer who sometime ago wrote the interesting article on the Chestnut.

---

The Delaware County Field and Stream Association, Inc., recently awarded "Shorty" Manning with 500—.22 calibre rifle cartridges—the first prize in its 1945 membership contest. "Shorty" signed up 207 members between January 1 and March 31. Some of these had belonged to the club last year. The second prize of two boxes of 50 each .22 calibre cartridges went to Roy Pierce who brought in 153 new members.

At the close of last year the club had 1400 members. This year it sets its goal at 2000. We hope you make it, boys!

---

The Clinton County Fish and Game Commission is sponsoring eight-week care for ringneck pheasant chicks and is paying for sufficient feed to carry out the program. Eighteen hundred day-old birds have been received and distributed to a score of cooperating sportsmen in the area.

In 1944 the club reared 290 ringnecks.

# With the Clubs

The Lower Merion Rod and Gun Club has been chosen to take charge of the fly accuracy event in the annual tournament to be held at Willow Grove on June 17 by the Middle Atlantic Association of Casting Clubs, of which the Lower Merion group is a member.

Since its origin in 1939 the Association has required, in its seven main events, the use of fishing tackle of standard manufacture, that is, tackle which is used by a majority of sportsmen, in order to enable all fishermen to enjoy casting instead of limiting the sport to a few who can afford expensive equipment.

The M. A. A. C. C. has been awarding prizes on a class system basis, so that beginners as well as more expert contestants can win equally valuable prizes. This year the prizes will be War Bonds and Stamps.

---

The New Hope Fish, Game and Forestry Association reported 15 new members at its recent meeting. At this gathering plans were discussed for improving fishing conditions of the canal and to establish game refuges along the banks of the canal.

Two hundred pheasant chicks have been ordered by the club, to be raised in the pens in the former gravel pit at the west edge of New Hope. The 40 cock pheasants raised last year were released in the community on February 5.

The organization also reported 700 brown trout released in Ingham Creek on March 17; 200 catfish in Pidcock Creek on April 19.

During April the club provided 2,500 evergreen seedlings for nearby farms where they were set out as winter protection for game, and to prevent soil erosion.

---

The Perkiomen Valley Sportsmen's Association publishes a monthly bulletin, the "Sportcaster" which it sends regularly via first class mail to its approximately 70 members in the Armed Services.

This spring the club distributed 2200 trees to farmers in the vicinity. These trees were planted on hillsides and other land not suitable for raising other crops.

---

The Lehigh Fish and Game Protective Association reports 2400 members for 1945. This is an increase of 91 members over 1944 and 450 members over 1943.

---

The Crow Foot Rod and Gun Club of Wilkinsburg recently formed a committee which is worthy of mention. This committee was created for the purpose of studying proposed sportsmen bills in the State Legislature, and to do all in their power to see that the proper action is taken on these bills.

The club has requested the American Kennel Club to set a date either the last of September or the first of October for a Crow Foot dog trial. More power to you, boys!

---

The Morris Rod and Gun Club deserves a big hand for their spirit and determination in feeding game and reducing the depredations of dogs.

During the past severe winter the club

purchased and its members distributed 51 bushels of corn and 880 pounds of buckwheat. One member, Robert Heyler, Jr., bought and personally distributed 39 bushels of corn and 9 bushels of buckwheat.

Club members, usually in small groups of 8 to 12, donated 168 man hours to distributing grain and cutting browse for the deer.

The area covered included Morris and Duncan Townships and parts of Liberty Township. And covering it was no easy job. These men, armed with axes and carrying great sacks of feed on their back, often floundered through three foot drifts against biting winds.

Because many deer were being chased and killed by dogs, the club also formed a committee to act at a minute's notice against any of these reported predators. As soon as these "minute men" were notified of dogs chasing deer, they grabbed their guns and ran to the rescue. No dog was shot unless he was known to be chasing deer, and the Club made appeals to people to keep their dogs tied or confined during the critical months. Due to these efforts, the dog menace was greatly lessened in the vicinity.

The Morris Rod and Gun Club was organized November 13, 1935 with 47 members. Since then monthly meetings have been held and the membership increased to outnumber that of any of the eight clubs in the Tioga County Consolidated Sportsmen's Association.

---

The North Penn Fish and Game Association has decided to purchase the stock and equipment of a commercial breeder of pheasants and carry on a permanent propagation program. The purchase includes more than 40 breeders and sectional pens.

---

In spite of busy work schedules, the Southeastern Division of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs assisted the Commission in trapping and transferring 8,595 rabbits last winter—an increase of 385 over the previous year.

Counties of the Federation report the following number of rabbits: Berks, 2,650; Bucks, 247; Chester, 423; Delaware and Philadelphia, 1,111; Lehigh 1,380; Montgomery, 1,068; Northampton, 1,116; Schuylkill, 600.

**"I'm sorry boys, but 'Der Furore' says I can't go to the trap shoot with you."**

The Lehigh County Fish and Game Protective Association intends to raise approximately 400 day-old pheasant chicks. To the individuals who have agreed to raise the birds, the association will pay 80 cents for each pheasant raised to ten weeks of age.

Although the membership books of the association do not close officially until August 31, the roster now stands at 2,831. This is an all-time high for the 24-year history of the group.

---

The Bucks County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs has prepared a Directory listing all affiliated Clubs and their officers, and have presented each of these clubs with a copy.

The Federation has stocked catfish in about every stream in the County open to public fishing.

---

The Altoona Wildlife Conservation Club is planning to cultivate three plots of ground in Blair County for the preservation of game. Members of the club and cooperating farmers will plant these plots on their own time. The grain will be left standing next fall to supply winter food for wildlife.

Club members and farmers are also working together to raise 500 pheasant chicks, the grown birds to be liberated in Blair County.

Streams of the county have been stocked with 1300 legal size brook trout and 4000 fingerlings. Plans for stocking Lakemont with sunfish, rock bass and others are being made.

This enterprising group also expects to conduct discussions with the Future Farmers and 4-H Clubs; the purpose of these discussions will be to point out to the young people the necessity of conservation education.

---

The Chambersburg Rod and Gun Club has taken its initial steps toward the organization of a dog training and trial area.

---

The South Mountain Sportsmen's Club is raising young ringneck pheasants furnished by the Game Commission. The Club is also planting corn for feeding deer next winter.

---

Newly organized Plains Rod and Gun Club recently filed application for a charter in the Prothonotary's Office in the Courthouse at Wilkes-Barre. The main objective of the new group, according to the application, is to foster and encourage activities in sports and athletics, especially hunting and fishing.

---

Every newspaper clipping concerning the activities of the Littlestown Fish and Game Association is submitted to the Editor of GAME NEWS so that he may keep abreast of what is going on among the clubs locally and pass along through GAME NEWS items that might interest other organizations. If every club did the same thing GAME NEWS would have more "example" items of benefit to one club or another.

---

Stalking ducks, coyotes and rabbits after the war won't be as thrilling or as satisfactory as hunting Japs but it will be made easier by wearing the G. I. camouflage suits currently used in jungle and wooded combat areas. Air Force men stationed at the Loredo Texas Gunnery School discovered while hunting in their spare time that camouflage suits eliminated the need for blinds or concealed spots for duck hunting. Wearing green and brown "commando clothes" they squat on a river bank and fire at ducks which sit on the water a few feet away. The camouflage is said to be equally effective in sneaking up on other wildlife.

---

Sixty-eight new members were taken into the Bucks County Fish and Game Association at its June meeting.

Knowing that social activities help members to become better acquainted, friendlier and as a result more cooperative with each other, the club is planning its summer picnic which for years has been a highlight of the association.

---

Preliminary steps for the acquisition of rural electric service for their clubhouse and grounds at Riggles Gap were taken at a recent meeting of the Blair County Game, Fish and Forestry Association.

The club approved the lease of their range to the Altoona Rifle and Pistol Club for the State small-bore rifle championships on September 2-3 and for the Reffner trophy match in mid-July.

A project to raise game and liberate it in the county was discussed.

---

The Vandergrift Sportsmen's Association held a 'coon dog trial on May 27 in the organization's dog training grounds. Fifty three dogs were entered. The winning dog of the line final was Red Sailor, owned by Oscar Robbins of Allison Park.

---

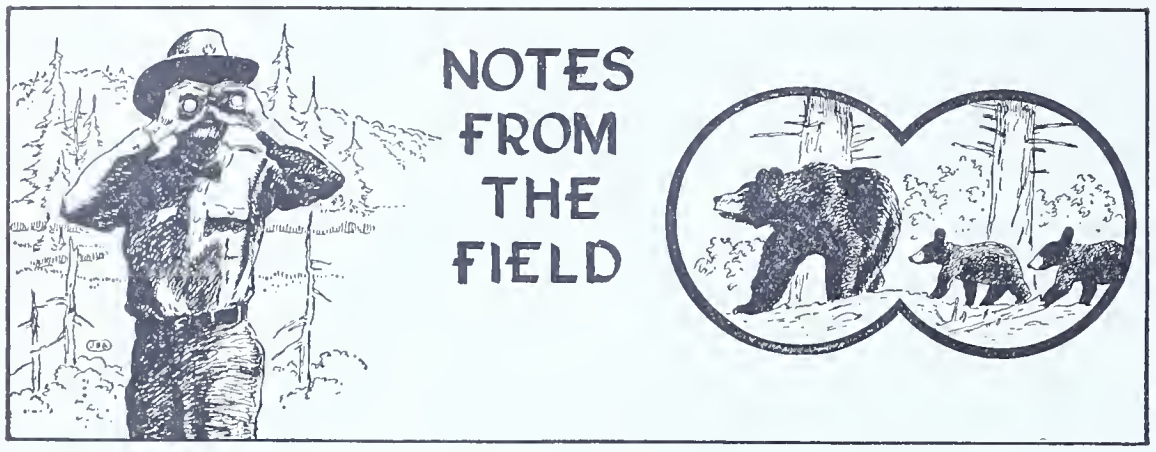
The Montour County Fish and Game Conservation club recently reported that members had shot about 100 crows in one week.

---

In spite of soggy weather on June 3, the Venango County 'Coon and Fox Hunter's Association staged a 'coon dog trial at the Cranberry recreational center of the Buck Tails.

The committee announced the following as winners of field prizes: Pistol and Shells, H. Campbell of Oil City; $25 bond, H. A. Seaton of Franklin; hunting knife, A. Wilson of Witherup.

**"He asked if I want to hunt here this season and when I said 'yes,' he shoved this hoe in my hand."**




"On May 14 I called on Mr. McClain in North Beaver Township, Lawrence County, who had contacted me in regard to a fox killing 31 chickens in his brooder house in one night. Last year he lost over 200 chickens to foxes. While looking over the vicinity we saw four young red foxes playing around a den. We dug them out and got three of them. While we were digging an old red kept trying to lure us away, but she kept well out of gun shot.

"We then boiled McClain's traps and I set them. The other day I got a letter from him saying he caught two more foxes in the traps. and lost one trap because a wire pulled off the stake. He also saw one of the old foxes.

"The season is very backward this year. I am still planting corn on the food plots, but hope to complete the job soon.

"Hootie, the live owl, had a lot to do with the 12 crows listed on my kill report. We are putting him on a crow diet due to the meat shortage."—Game Protector R. P. Schmid, Slippery Rock, May 1945.

---

"While doing farm-game work in the upper end of Bucks County, I have seen a good supply of game.

"Farmers in this section seem to be glad to get safety zone areas and protection from the Game Commission. These farmers have given me some valuable information that will help break up some of the violations this coming fall.

"During the last month, I have killed almost 300 crows, a few stray dogs and also a few cats.

"This Farm Game Project No. 7 will be around 7000 acres by fall. The present acreage is 5,597 and I still have a number of farms to get. This section is all good farm land, and very good hunting territory.

"I saw one nest of 13 baby rabbits.

"An adult beaver was killed by a truck on May 5 at Shelly Station. This was the only beaver I had ever seen in this county.

"Much of our game is killed on the highways due to fast driving."—Game Protector Clarence H. Mumbauer, Perkasie, May 1945.

---

"I have never had much trouble with dogs in this area but this spring it seems that more of them are on the loose.

"There has not been one deer damage claim this spring. No fawns are in sight yet. The deer are pretty well in the woods now and will be out when fawns come with them.

"I have been in the woods quite a lot this month but have seen very few grouse. I found one nest with nine eggs. The hen flew out when I walked past but stuck to the nest the next trip.

"I would suggest that a system be worked out to get as many snappers as possible out of Pymatuning. They must be killing plenty of ducks."—Game Protector Ralph H. Ewing, Polk, May 1945.

---

"I believe more rinkneck pheasants wintered and are raising young this spring than came through winter before last. Young rabbits are not showing up quite as well as they did last spring. Woodchucks are more abundant and their young are quite numerous. Judging from the number of beaver complaints, the last trapping season depleted their numbers very little. Grouse in this section are not on the increase."—Game Protector Elmer D. Simpson, Cambridge Springs, May 1945.

---

"On May 21 Mr. Ryan, of Tidioute, and I went over parts of State Game Lands No. 24 looking for ash timber. We found an ash tree that was about 50 feet high to the first limbs. At breast high it was 136½ inches around. This tree looks sound and there are no scars on it.

"I've found some grouse that have hatched, but all seem to have small flocks of young birds. I haven't seen any young rabbits yet."—Game Protector Edward Shaw, Leeper, May 1945.

---

"In all of my travels I have failed to see any grouse. I've talked to other men who have been around and they haven't seen any, either.

"All of the fruit has been killed by the frost."—Game Protector Ernest E. Hunsinger, Conrad, May 1945.

---

"The natural game food supply consisting of many berries, fruits and nuts will be very small this year because of late frosts and continued wet, cold weather.

"The breeding season for small game, especially ground nesting birds and mammals has not been good because of the late freezes and wet weather. Few young birds and rabbits have been noted to date."—Game Protector Howard F. Hoffman, Susquehanna, May 1945.

---

"On May 18 while assisting Officer Shaffer in the Nuangola section in District B-11 to blow out two beaver dams, I had the unusual experience of finding a green-headed bullfrog hopping around with about two inches of the tail end of a catfish sticking out of its mouth. After a bit of effort I caught the bullfrog, and showed it to Officer Shaffer. Upon closer examination I found that one of the horns of the fish had worked through the lower part of the frog's throat. After I had removed the catfish, which was dead, I released the frog which was overjoyed to be free again."—Game Protector Peter A. Zikosky, Minooka, May 1945.

---

"Frequent rains have greatly interfered with getting demonstration plots ready for planting.

"So far this spring I have seen very few young rabbits, and no young grouse. I believe the continual wet weather has taken a heavy toll of young birds and rabbits."—Game Protector H. D. Carroll, Thornhurst, May 1945.

---

"On May 23 I removed a deer from highway Route No. 76 north of Hustontown. It apparently had been struck by a heavy truck, as one hind quarter was torn from the body. This deer was a doe heavy with fawn. Its rib section was burst and an unborn fawn was lying near the body. A second fawn was partly protruding through the rib section. By all indications these fawns would have been born the first week of June.

"During the second half of May, I have observed numerous young cottontail rabbits and young gray squirrels. Turkeys are still gobbling on Game Lands No. 99, an indication that hens are nesting nearby."—Game Protector William Lane, Hustontown, May 1945.

---

"Rains, especially those that come on for parts of days and chase us off the job, have caused excessive mileage and a lot extra work in fitting ground over and over again for planting.

"Rains and winds have delayed planting to a point where it may be that we will have to forget about some of it until next year.

"The outlook for game food this season is

## Important Notice to Personnel of the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard Overseas

**According to Order No. 27851 issued by the Postmaster General May 1, 1945 single copies of newspapers and magazines addressed to Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard personnel overseas will not be accepted unless they are being sent in fulfilment of the written request of the addressee for subscription or renewal of subscription.**

**Postmasters shall require publishers to show the written requests; and relatives and friends may pay for subscriptions or renewals only if the addressee has requested it.**

**The post offices will not accept any complimentary copies, copies paid for by advertisers or any arrangement by which the written request is solicited.**

**Subscriptions now being mailed will be continued until the subscription has expired, but such copies will be returned to the publisher unless they are marked, "Mailed in conformity with P.O.D. Order No. 27851."**

the poorest that I have ever known; I don't think we will have any fruit, nuts or berries of any kind."—Game Protector Elmer L. Pilling, Philipsburg, May 1945.

"The grouse and turkey are better this spring than last. I have had reports that turkeys are plentiful in most every section. I've seen them in at least five different locations, and also have observed four flocks of young grouse in Dothan Valley where we are cutting timber."—Game Protector D. H. Franklin, Upper Strasburg, May 1945.

"This month has been very wet and planting is 'way behind schedule."—Game Protector Raymond M. Sickles, Linesville, May 1945.

"The hatching of game birds seems to be very good so far this summer. The rabbits are showing up very good, and there seem to be quite a lot of small fawn deer.

"Have not had very many complaints of damage to gardens up to this date:

"Have had very good reports from the sportmen about their feeding of game last winter, and about the amount of game that survived the bad weather."—Game Protector William G. Matthews, Rector, May 1945.

"One mink was trapped in a chicken coop at headquarters and turned over alive to Mr. Luttringer.

"The outlook for winter game food is bad at this time. Too much wet weather prohibited the bloom on nut trees and shrubs to be pollenized. The small amount of fruit that did develop was later frozen.

"One grouse hatched eleven chicks from a clutch of twelve eggs."—Game Protector Earl E. Smith, Williamsport, May 1945.

"Prospects for a crop of fattening food for game are about washed out. Repeated frosts have caught each food bearing species in bloom. There will be a very light crop of apples on a few trees. A few black cherries have set a good crop, but it is still too early to estimate the extent of damage. The choke cherry was practically wiped out. Hawthorn did not put more than a half crop of blossoms and some seed producers. The beeches did not blossom at all.

"I found two dead deer during the past ten days, apparently killed by the bot fly larvae. Both were much too ripe for a thorough examination but I was able to determine that the larvae had been there."—Game Protector L. B. Rosenkrans, Wilcox, May 1945.

**"His uncle died and left his brother six boxes of shells and cut him off with a million dollars."**

"The results of a hard winter are beginning to show in the fawns. I have observed two that were very small and weak. One was picked up by a fisherman who thought the doe had left it. I brought it to headquarters and tried to feed it, but it was so weak that it died before morning.

"I guess it will take a few prosecutions to convince the public that small fawns *must* be left in the woods."—Game Protector Edward R. Richards, Portland Mills, May 1945.

"From reports received, I believe that our coveys of young grouse are greatly outnumbering the last spring reports. I have seen several coveys ranging from eight to fourteen. In one place a highway road machine plowed out a nest that contained fourteen young birds. Five of them were killed but the other nine soon disappeared in the brush, apparently uninjured.

"Last week I saw a covey of bob-white quail on Game Lands No. 143. This is the first time I have seen any quail in that vicinity.

"After removing beaver from the dam at Chandlers Valley I tore out the dam and house. When I tore out the house I found a nest containing a young mink that did not have its eyes open. In the nest was a bullhead, not quite dead, with a hole chewed in the back of its head."—Game Protector George H. Burdick, Tidioute, May 1945.

"A boy brought in a young bird for identification which turned out to be a Great Horned Owl fledgling.

"While walking through the woods, his youthful curiosity was aroused by the strange antics of a number of crows. As he was sneaking closer to investigate, an adult Great Horned Owl, carrying something, flushed from the top of a tree. The owl was immediately dive-bombed by the crows and in its effort to escape was forced to drop the object it was carrying, which was the fledgling."—Game Protector W. T. Campbell, Franklin, April 1945.

"On April 28, while patrolling the vicinity of Seelyville and Prompton, I observed a crow which appeared to be interested in something on the ground along the old railroad bed. I investigated and found the remains of a grouse nest. The crow was evidently cleaning up what was left. It was impossible to tell how many eggs had been in the nest as there were only pieces of shell left, and no sign of the old bird."—Game Protector Maynard R. Miller, Honesdale, April 1945.

"Ivan Hanes and Clarence Minnich, of Duke Center, found a yearling doe that had just about passed out of the picture. They brought it to my headquarters more dead than alive, and then and there started the job of bringing the animal back to good health.

"I removed it to Mr. Oscar Wagner's premises as he had excellent quarters to retain it. The public was refused admission, Mr. Wagner was elected nurse, and I must say he did an excellent job.

**"Where were you when the lightning struck?"**

"When Game Protector Carpenter and myself released the deer, it made one wild scramble and was gone. I remarked to Mr. Carpenter, 'Well, it was carried in but it sure went out on its own steam.'"—Game Protector Claude B. Kelsey, Port Allegany, April 1945.

On May 13 Mr. Samuel Hollister, whose residence is located on the Lancaster City Water Works property, telephoned me that he had killed three young gray foxes. Mr. Hollister explained that he found these young foxes playing around an eight inch iron culvert pipe on the Water Works property, which is just about one mile east of Lancaster City. These animals were using this particular pipe as their playground, the pipe being open at both ends. Mr. Hollister killed the three with a rifle as they emerged from one of the ends. Mr. Hollister also explained that there was another culvert pipe of the same diameter about six feet away which was closed at one end. We both formed the opinion that the balance of the litter might be in this other pipe if the mother didn't move them that night, in which case I figured she wouldn't move them too far away.

"The following morning Fish Warden Greener and I met Mr. Hollister and we found two more young gray foxes in the pipe which had the one end closed. This pipe had been used as the den for this litter. During the night the mother fox had killed a hen pheasant for the two remaining youngsters and had deposited it just inside the pipe.

"This was the oddest fox den I have ever seen. I was also surprised that Mother Fox had not moved these two remaining young ones during the night. I knew that the gray fox was lazy, but I didn't think she would be quite that lazy, considering the fact that she had dozens of other pipes and holes not far from the disturbed den where she could have taken her family during the night."—Game Protector J. M. Haverstick, Lancaster.

*(Continued on Page 30)*

# Soil Conservation Districts

*(Continued from page 5)*

**Here is an ideal impounding reservoir which furnishes fishing, boating, swimming and water for the stock during dry periods.**

of each acre. They will also prepare a layout of his farm, prepared in accordance with its soil conservation needs and showing where conservation practices should be adopted. If the farmer decides to adopt the new farm plan, either in whole or in part, he will be given technical assistance in carrying it out.

If heavy machinery is available to the district, it will be rented to him and an operator will be furnished when necessary. But wherever possible, the district supervisors recommend that the farmer use his own equipment; and, of course, he provides his own general labor. In that way he can do the job most economically; and also, by doing the job himself, he not only learns first hand the principles and value of soil conservation measures, but he will also be able to understand their maintenance better.

A district can make available to farmers planting stock for conservation purposes, and also fish (obtained through the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service) for stocking farm ponds. Contoured hedgerows of low, thick-growing shrubs are easy to maintain and give refuge which wildlife cannot find in unbroken fields with bare fences. Field borders, which are frequently unproductive, can often be advantageously planted to wildlife shrubs, which do not take plant nutrients and moisture from the adjoining cropland. Gully plantings and thicket plantings on rocky outridges prevent erosion and use otherwise unproductive areas for wildlife conservation. Shrub and other plantings along streams or around farm ponds afford food and cover for wildlife, as well as protection against erosion. So do contour strip cropped fields, cover crops, sod waterways and sod filter strips above diversion ditches. Protection of woodland from grazing, from unwise cutting and from fire, and reforestation of cleared land unsuited for cropland or pasture not only help produce timber, which can be a valuable farm crop, but also encourage wildlife.

In Pennsylvania as in many other states, the Soil Conservation Service maintains a nursery at which are produced trees and shrubs to be used for soil conservation work. During 1943 the nursery at Howard, Pa., produced over 3,000,000 tree seedlings and shrubs for distribution in the 12 northeastern states, primarily in districts.

The construction of farm and community ponds is a rather recent development in soil conservation district activities. Such ponds are used for stock water, for fire protection, for recreation and as a source of fish, a valuable supplement to the farm diet. In some states large numbers of farm ponds have been built and stocked. In Pennsylvania districts the farm pond program has just begun, but is expected to expand rapidly from now on.

A soil conservation district provides an educational program which is important. This program includes large meetings with speakers and perhaps a moving picture on conservation, but equally valuable are the small gatherings at some farmer's house, where one of the district supervisors or a technician can explain soil conservation principles and practices. In that way, and by seeing soil conservation work in actual operation on some neighbor's farm, a farmer can learn what conservation is all about and what its advantages are.

Perhaps the most important service which a district can render not only to individual farmers, but to the whole community, is to make it possible for all the farmers in the district to work together for their common good. This group action is particularly important in handling water problems and securing the use of earth-moving machinery. Or, again, perhaps a number of farms comprising a whole watershed should be considered as a unit in preparing a soil conservation program for each. Farmers in districts attend meetings, and gradually assume neighborhood responsibility for carrying out the general district program. In all these ways, and others, the many individuals within the district are pulling together as a group and are using every available resource towards better use of the land.

## FACTS ABOUT WILDLIFE

The busy little sandpiper that fusses about on the shores of lakes and ocean helps in the harvest of the oyster by feeding on the larvae of water bugs that are so destructive to the oyster spawn. The larvae attack the oyster eggs and suck the juices from them. Out of a million eggs from one mature oyster, about 80 per cent of the spawn does nit live to grow into edible oysters. The maturing process requires about six years.

---

The Michigan Department of Conservation has announced that the teaching of conservation in that State's public schools will be given new emphasis in 1945.

A full-time consultant will be employed by the Conservation Department to coordinate the work being done in schools. A steering committee of representatives of the Department of Public Instruction, Conservation Department, Michigan State College, county school commissioners and teachers now acts as a clearing house to provide teachers with information and material for the purpose.

---

Recent winter storms in Arizona caused antelope to drift into the Old Chavez Pass southeast of Flagstaff where a number of them were trapped by O. N. Arrington, Project Leader of the Wildlife Restoration Division of the State agency. Nineteen were caught and transported to the mesa lying between the Cascabel and Winchester Mountains in Cochise County, where the commission has an antelope restoration project.

"More than nineteen antelope entered the trap, but being wild they attempted to get out," Arrington stated. "They crowded into one corner and five of them took advantage of their fellows and ran up on them and jumped the fence. One doe was more ethical and jumped a seven foot fence from a near standing start.

---

A smaller pheasant population in many California areas this season than last has prompted the Division of Fish and Game to urge sportsmen to take fewer pheasants this season, in order to leave adequate breeding stock to insure future sport.

While the Commission, under the Fish and Game Code, may close or shorten hunting seasons, laws and tags were distributed before the pheasant shortage was evident. Hence curtailing the season is not now considered feasible.

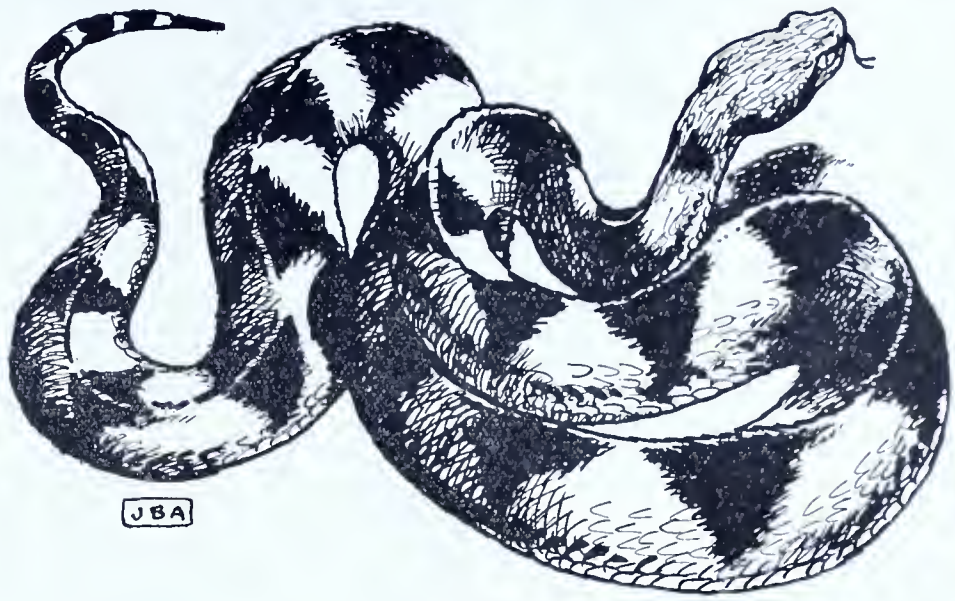
# For the Love of Snakes

(Continued from page 11)

siderable concern. With the aid of Toomey, a Zoo specialist, he got the 13-foot cobra packed in a deep cloth bag which was then locked in a heavy satchel. With this he boarded the train, the porter placing his bag below the berth. As the car became quite chilly during the night, Ditmars brought the bag into the bed with him, putting part of his covers with his overcoat upon it. He went by taxi with his charge to the reception and in giving his lecture was requested to tell how he had transported the king cobra to its new home.

The excitement of this trip did not compare with the embarrassment he suffered when the public got hold of the story. Ditmars received a letter from one of the railroad officials accusing him of unethical behavior toward the traveling public and forbade him further courtesies of that road under similar circumstances. Officials from other roads contacted him for advice in building safe containers for shipping snakes.

Dr. William T. Hornaday took a special fancy to Ditmars, recognizing in him a scientist of peculiar ability. It was through his influence that Raymond became eventually the curator of Bronx Zoo's Department of Mammals and Reptiles. How relieved the family must have been to have his collection transferred to the Zoo. How proud they must have been to know that Raymond had become such an authority on snakes that no less a person than Theodore Roosevelt, then President of the United States, suggested that he write a book of the reptiles of the world. This suggestion was followed by the publication of his first reptile book, a large impressive volume.




Bushmaster

Ditmars wrote many thrilling books, most of them about snakes. He served as Curator of the Bronx Zoo from 1910 until his death in 1942. He spent his vacations for many summers indulging in a most unusual hobby —*hunting hurricanes!* On one of his latest excursions to South America he brought back some super specimens of vampire bats the like of which had never been seen. He was an authority on all kinds of animal life but his greatest efforts were spent for the love of snakes. He made many valuable discoveries about snake poisons. He learned that the most poisonous of all reptiles is the Australian tiger snake.

Dr. Ditmars, in collaboration with Dr. Albert Calmette of Pasteur Institute of Paris, realized some of the great dreams of his boyhood. They studied the poisons and compounded life-saving serums. One of Ditmars' most difficult undertakings was the posing of snakes for photographs; many dangerous vipers "spit" upon the camera lens droplets of poison so virulent that they would have ruined the best pair of eyes. He handled sometimes as many as 200 snakes in the course of two hours. He was never bitten nor harmed by a snake. In his research work in making serums it is estimated that he helped to save over a quarter of a million human lives. For his rare ability and sympathetic understanding of his charges he was often called the "Wizard of the Zoo."

# Nature's Dive Bombers

(Continued from page 15)

Above—Male Sparrow Hawk.
Below—Adult Pigeon Hawk.

rific losses all over their range. Automobiles continue to take an awful toll of game, but there is little can be done here except education and placing of posters on the state highways.

Sportsmen must remember that once hawks and owls are wiped out all over their range, they are gone forever. Such a situation would, to the sportsman and nature lover be little short of an outdoor calamity. Let's all work together and help build up our precious forests and streams and see that plenty of cover is available. Then and only then will we see a return of the myriads of game and song birds of years gone by.

We need our hawks and owls. They are part and parcel of this great, free land of ours. Without these noble birds our woods and fields would lose much if not all their glamour and mystery. What say, fellow sportsmen—let's give our hawks a break in the true American spirit of sportsmanship!

---

A common toad, according to one estimate, is worth $25 a year to a farmer because of the large number of injurious insects it eats.

---

There are 1,200 military uses for lumber, it is estimated.

Above—Sharp-shinned Hawk.
Below—Cooper's Hawk.

# HOW OTHERS ARE DOING IT

*Editor's Note*—Traverse County, Michigan, is setting a spendid example of what can be accomplished in the way of conservation education and practices. In the following paragraphs Elizabeth Cole of the Education Division of the Michigan Department of Conservation, explains how the job is done. Next month she will point out new ways to teach conservation principles. If you know of any teachers locally who may be interested in conservation please let them read these two very worthwhile articles.

The ways by which conservation education has found its way into school curriculums throughout the state of Michigan are numerous and varied. Sometimes it has been an outgrowth of knowledge and ideas acquired in teacher training colleges; perhaps it has been a result of inservice teacher training programs; at times 4-H Clubs have taken the lead; sometimes the interest and initiative of an individual teacher has been responsible; again the school pupils themselves have instigated the program; or, as in Grand Traverse County, sportsmen's organizations have taken the initial step.

In 1939, the Dog and Sportsmen's Club of Traverse City, in cooperation with George Eikey, County School Commissioner, and the Extension Service of Michigan State College, offered a cash prize for the best essay on conservation of natural resources written by the pupils of the rural schools in that county. The essay could discuss any phase of conservation. In 1943 the club altered the requirements of the contest so that it included any type of worthwhile conservation project. With the help of Robert Ries, District 4-H Club Agent, a list of conservation activities adaptable to rural schools was compiled to give the boys and girls an insight into, and a background for conservation education.

Eighteen schools in Grand Traverse County took part in the program, with a total of 212 boys and girls participating. A similar program with an increased number of schools and participants is being carried on this year in the rural schools of the county.

The 1945 Spring 4-H Club Achievement Day will bring forward many interesting projects carried on at various times through the school year by the pupils. There will be wildlife diaries. In the diaries the pupils are keeping a record of the various species of wildlife which they see in the community over a given period of time, the places where they see them, what they are doing at the time the pupils see them, and the importance of the different species to them as individuals and to the community as a whole. In many instances the diaries are illustrated with free hand sketches of the wildlife seen and accompanying notes tell of observations made of the characteristic habits of the birds, animals, or flowers.

There will be needle, leaf twig, seed, and bark collections which have familiarized the pupils with the species and characteristics of trees native to their community. Needles, leaves, and twigs gathered while on field trips have been dried and pressed in books or between sheets of paper and later mounted on bristol board. Seeds of the various tree species have been placed in transparent cellophane bags and fastened near the corresponding needles, leaves, and twigs. To complete the exhibits, wood and bark sections have been added to the respective groupings and the entire groups identified.

Several pupils have collected wood cross sections. The different parts of the tree—bark, cambian layer, sapwood, heartwood, and pith—have been indicated and labeled. This activity necessitated the study of the growing process of trees and has resulted in the realization that trees like any other crop should be harvested when ripe if they are to render the greatest use.

Posters have further illustrated the utilization of forest products, forest fire prevention, forests as the habitat of game animals and birds, and forests as soil builders and soil protectors.

A practical application of the study of trees which many of the schools are carrying out is shown in the pine seedlings which have been planted and cared for by the pupils in several of the rural school yards.

Grand Traverse County is one of the fruit centers of Michigan. Many of the people in that county are economically dependent upon the success of their fruit crops. The rolling topography of Grand Traverse County gives rise to the problem of soil erosion both by wind and water. Soil conservation is of vital importance to the people in that area and many of the pupils in the schools, as future fruit producers, are deeply interested in soil conservation practices. With the cooperation of the Grand Traverse Soil Conservation District Office, which has furnished the schools with a generous supply of supplementary reading material and shown numerous conservation movies, field trips were taken during which the boys and girls became acquainted with soil conservation practices and needs in their communities.

A realization of these soil problems on the part of the pupils is evidenced by the soil conservation demonstration exhibits which have been constructed in several of the schools. These show in miniature, soil conservation practices that are being used and which need to be used in Grand Traverse County. Using clay, sand, mosses, twigs, lichens, stones, and grasses, the pupils modeled sections of land. Contour plowing and strip cropping were practiced on the sloping lands. Cover crops were in evidence between the rows of trees in the tiny orchards. Evergreen twigs showed shelter belts and windbreaks.

The 4-H Clubs have played an important part in furthering conservation activities in Grand Traverse County. The members have not only participated in class room conservation projects but have assisted the County Farm Bureau and other farm organizations in the development of the 4-H Club Twin Lake Park.

Located a few miles from Traverse City, the sixty acres included in the park area were given to Grand Traverse County by Circuit Judge Parm C. Gilbert for use by the 4-H Clubs and other youth and farm groups in the county.

The park is being successfully developed through the fine cooperation of Various organizations throughout the county. Recently the County Road Commission donated the use of a bulldozer which has aided in building a ski jump and toboggan slide for a

**Tree planting activities during Spring of 1944 in Grand Traverse County 4-H Club Twin Lake park.**

winter sports program for county youth groups. The 4-H Clubs are assisting county farm organizations in building facilities and in improving the lake shore which borders the park. A baseball diamond also will be laid out in the park.

The area contains a natural bowl which is planned as the setting for a club house to be constructed from lumber donated for this project.

The rolling terrain of the park, in sections of its present unforested state, shows evidences of future possibilities of damage by soil erosion and the decrease of wild game. Consequently, each spring several schools in the county plant trees and shrubs in the park for wildlife cover and erosion control. To date the pupils have planted 3,500 pine seedlings which have been obtained from the Conservation Department.

Grand Traverse County is to be highly commended for the conservation education program which has been organized and is being carried out in the schools. Too often soil, water, forests, minerals, scenery and game are regarded as our only natural resources. Too often we seem to forget that human life is as much a resource as is a rich vein of copper. That the organizers of the conservation education program in Grand Traverse County are conscious of human life as a valuable resource is evidenced by the 4-H Club Twin Lake Park project.

Boys and girls in that county are learning the meaning of conservation.

They are beginning to understand the need for using resources carefully and wisely. They are becoming acquainted with local natural resources. They are beginning to realize their own and their communities' dependency on natural resources in their own localities and those elsewhere. However, in addition, they are acquiring an appreciation for the out-of-doors and its countless treasures—its wholesome atmosphere, its opportunities for working and playing together, the opportunities it offers for healthy recreation, its demands for good sportsmanship, and its contributions to a happy, well-rounded way of life.

---

# Shore Patrol

*(Continued from page 7)*

is swiftly chased by his squawking, diving brothers. Twisting and dodging, the one with the tidbit is soon badgered into dropping it. Before it has fallen ten feet, one of the pursuers snaps it up and is off, followed by the others, including the original owner. This goes on with the fish rapidly changing hands (or bills) until one lucky gull bolts it down in full flight, or somehow or other manages to escape with the prize.

In appearance the herring gull is large and cobby, measuring from twenty to twenty-five inches from bill to tail, with a graceful wing span ranging from three to four feet. His powerful bill is about three inches long curved at the tip, ruggedly reinforced in the middle, and colored yellow or cream, often with a daub of black or red. The bill is both a wonderful weapon and an efficient breadwinner.

The herring gull's large, round, yellow eye is an excellent spyglass. Many's the time, sailing home from fishing in my dory, I have thrown away the shiners used for bait, only to have them pounced upon by a dozen wheeling, screaming, battling gulls, which were not in sight two minutes before.

It often happens that the color of the herring gull leads to confusion. Most people, observing a flock of feeding gulls, will point out a few tattered, motley individuals and identify them as the seasoned veterans of the group. Nothing could be less true, for these are only the youngsters of the community. Immature gulls, between one and two years old, wear a miserable flecked coat of dark brown shabby feathers, with wing tips, tail, bill, and eyes a dull, dirty brown. In all respects they look as though their days were numbered. But these youngsters, when they reach maturity, don the uniform of the adult herring gull. The bill and eyes become bright yellow, while the head, neck, breast, and tail turn a snowy white. The sides take on a soft. pearly grey tint, and the primary wing feathers grow black, edged with tips of white. In the winter, the white parts are slightly flecked with brown.

The legs are of medium length, quite spindly and awkward. Each foot has four toes, one posterior and three anterior, the latter being webbed. The gull is not primarily a swimmer, yet this webbing is a necessity, for in order to take off from the water he must paddle along violently, taxiing as it were, until he has attained enough momentum to set his great wings in action.

**ANSWERS TO WHAT'S WRONG**

**1. The young of the wolverine are light cream in color.**

**2. White-crowned sparrows nest on the ground.**

**3. Whipoorwills ALWAYS perch on a limb in a position parallel to it; NEVER crosswise.**

**4. The Upland "Plover" is not a plover at all, but a sandpiper, the Bartramian Sandpiper. Closely related to the tattlers.**

### Gulls Are Gregarious

Herring gulls are gregarious birds. In their great flocks it is common to see many terns, quite a few kittiwakes and ring-billed gulls, and an occasional great black-backed gull, as well as many smaller sea fowl.

In their home life the herring gulls are a little less friendly, generally selecting a locality to be used for their exclusive breeding ground. The largest headquarters for the gulls that patrol around Boston and points north is a small, steep, inaccessible island —Egg Rock—off the northern shore of Nahant, Massachusetts.

Shortly after sunset the birds may be seen flocking there to roost by the thousands. And in the morning, long before the sun climbs out of the choppy Atlantic, the gulls are up, searching the grey sands for breakfast. The herring gulls are hardly believers in union hours, for I often have observed them far into the night, searching miles of rarely exposed flats which had been laid bare by an extremely low tide.

On Egg Rock, Mr. and Mrs. Gull take up housekeeping sometime between the months of April and August. Out of flotsam and jetsam, seaweed, grasses, sticks, and weeds they fashion a fairly rugged nest in a sheltered ground location. One to four eggs are deposited. These hatch into ugly but rapidly growing youngsters, who leave the nest at a comparatively early age. However, they are still dependent on their parents until they have learned to fly and can take their place serving Nature—and man.

### Help from Humans

A stormless winter in New England spells hardship for the herring gulls. All along the coast the calm water's edge freezes solid, and the birds, being unable to dive, disconsolately hobble along the ice-armored beach, suffering slow starvation. In appreciation of the assistance rendered by the gulls, many seaboard New England towns, throughout the cold winter months, dump their swill at shore points, where it is joyously feasted upon by the famished birds and carries them through the winter.

Sometimes a young or weak bird becomes exhausted during a lengthy storm and is dashed against the rocks or takes refuge in the lee of a protecting shelter. Many of these birds are picked up and cared for by coastal dwellers and, with proper attention, they usually make a speedy recovery.

Incidentally, for the benefit of anyone who may come across a grounded gull and doesn't know what to feed it, I can say from experience that canned sardines or herring (ration board willing) will pull a gull out of almost anything but *rigor mortis*. These birds take readily to hand feeding. Caution must be observed, though, for if angered or frightened the gull can use its sturdy bill as a formidable weapon. The gull "bites" by extending the bill rather slowly, then yanking it back with great speed and power, causing the hooked end to gouge deeply.

Sometimes stark tragedy steps into the herring gull's life. Not long ago, in Boston Harbor, the crew of a tanker saw a gull flying inches above the surface of the water. Suddenly a dogfish seized its leg. The bird battled valiantly, but in a second or two the powerful fish had dragged it down out of sight, leaving only a few feathers and bubbles to show that there had been a struggle.

But despite all enemies, obstacles, and hazards, the hardy herring gull maintains his meticulous shore patrol and, through his ceaseless labor, helps keep our coasts clean and free from disease.

## HINTS FOR TRAPPERS

*(Continued from Page 13)*

that visits your trap within a few hours after it has been placed.

In speaking of predators, we are inclined to use the fox as the most outstanding example. This is due to the fact that this species is now most plentiful, but let us remember that there are other predators on which a bounty is paid and include them in your plans for a predator control campaign. There is no reason why a well planned predator control campaign will not be a success, but those participating in the actual work of this campaign should at all times be mindful of the right of others. Remember the fox hunters, the raccoon hunters, the bird hunters, the rabbit hunters, and others have a right to enjoy their chose sport, and at all times cooperate with farmer or landowner.

---

## NOTES FROM THE FIELD

*(Continued from Page 25)*

"One of the men who climbed to the nest of a great horned owl and took out two fledglings found the hind quarters of a young gray fox in the nest."—Game Protector John Blair, Waynesburg, May 1945.

---

"While hunting foxes in the county this past month, Jack Greenwald of Erie saw two red foxes approaching their den. Both fell to the unerring aim of the nimrod and after the dead animals were inspected it was found that one of them was carrying a half-grown house cat in its mouth. So it appears that the fox helps the game animals once in awhile, too."—Game Protector Clifford L. Ruth, Erie, May 1945.

---

"The red foxes in Mercer County are getting brave this summer. One farmer reported that the villains have taken nearly thirty full-grown white leghorn hens, some within one hundred feet of where he was doing his farm chores.

"I dug a den about one-half mile from the farm in the direction he said the fox had carried the chickens, and got six half-grown pups. The ground around the den was littered with all colors of chicken feathers, the remains of numerous rabbits and pheasants and the hind foot and leg bones of a spring lamb. This is the second time this summer that I have found lamb remains at fox dens. On one farm since October 15, 1944 I have taken, by trapping and digging, a total of fifteen red foxes, and I still have two dens to dig."—Game Protector H. C. Sutherland, Jamestown, May 1945.

---

On Saturday June 9, members of the Fulton County Sportsmen's League and other persons interested in game met in the Meadow Grounds near McConnellsburg and, under the supervision of Game Commission field men, planted game food there.

## WOODCHUCK SEASON

Although woodchuck season is listed as beginning on July 1, the official opening date this year will be July 2, due to the fact that July 1 comes on Sunday. Shooting hours are from 7 a. m. until 8:30 p. m. The closing date of the season will be September 30.

Woodchuck hunting should prove very successful this year as the animals, already plentiful, are continuing to increase in many parts of the Commonwealth.

Last season it was estimated that 134,643 woodchucks were killed during the season, but final tabulations will likely be higher. Many of these animals ended their careers on the family dinner table, thus saving precious red ration stamps and at the same time providing a tasty meal.

Properly prepared, woodchuck is savory eating and even the most fastidious diner should not turn up his nose at the meat of this vegetarian.

The most important thing to remember when hunting 'chucks is to make sure another hunter won't mistake you for one, and that you do not mistake another fellow for a 'chuck. If you have to conceal yourself to watch a groundhog, mark the spot somehow so another hunter won't send you into the next world. If all 'chuck hunters would mark their positions with a bit of red cloth tied on the end of a stick stuck into the ground nearby, they would always know each other's relative positions and not shoot in their directions.

---

Chesapeake Bay oysters, in order to obtain their food and oxygen, pump more water through and over their gills annually than is pumped by the combined water supply machinery of New York, Philadelphia, Washington, Baltimore, Richmond and Norfolk, for the use of the citizens of these cities.

---

Sharks will not eat dead shark meat. So now, for use in shark-infested waters, scientists have devised a repellent of decomposed shark meat, about the size of a small bar of soap, which is pinned to the life jacket.

## NEW LEGISLATION

*(Continued from Page 21)*

coal mines, collieries, breakers and other processing operations, in the group of "industrial wastes," the flow of which into the waters of the Commonwealth is to be regulated by the Sanitary Water Board. Enforcement jurisdiction is transferred from justices of the peace, aldermen and magistrates, to the courts of quarter sessions, and the penalties are fixed at $100 to $5000 instead of $500 to $1000 as at present. In addition, persons responsible may be imprisoned for a term of not more than one year. Prosecutions can be instituted only by or with the consent of the Attorney General. The Sanitary Water Board is authorized to establish standards of purity for the discharge of industrial wastes into the waters of the Commonwealth, to protect the public health, animal and aquatic life, and the use of such waters for domestic, industrial or recreational purposes. The bill also authorizes this Board, with the approval of the Governor and the Attorney General, to acquire by purchase, eminent domain or otherwise, easements and rights of way to divert acid mine drainage into polluted or unclean waters. Pipes, conduits, tunnels or pumps for this diversion shall be provided, operated and maintained by the Commonwealth.

---

## WILDLIFE VALUE

"The economic value of wildlife can be easily understood when figures from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service are quoted. Edible wildlife taken during 1942 amounted to 255,404,055 pounds of dressed meat. These very conservative figures are the latest available. They indicate that the 'vacation' wildlife has had since America went to war has greatly increased its ranks.

"The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service figures follow:

"*Big Game* (deer, elk, antelope, moose, sheep, goats, bear)—69,759,159 pounds.

"*Upland Game* (rabbits, squirrels, raccoon, opossum, woodchuck)—105,323,141 pounds.

"*Upland Game Birds* (quail, pheasants, grouse, partridges, turkeys)—42,242,507 pounds.

"*Migratory Game Birds—other than waterfowl* (doves, pigeons, bandtail, woodcock, rail and gallinule, sora)—2,444,216 pounds.

"*Waterfowl* (ducks, geese)—35,635,032 pounds.

"This makes a total of 255,404,055 pounds of DRESSED MEAT . . . a sizeable and valuable food crop harvested by sportsmen who, through this medium, released a similar poundage of domestic meat for consumption by non-hunters. And none of the wild game meat required ration points!

"The old nursery rhyme that "Daddy's gone ahunting, to get a little rabbit skin to wrap his Baby Bunting in" has been obsolete in effect for many years," he said, "But if game continues to increase and the present meat shortage grows worse, shotguns and sporting rifles and sporting ammunition to fit may well become almost as much of a necessity as they were in the days of the pioneers. Then the slogan will not be "Hunting for FUN instead of for FOOD, but "Hunting for *FUN and for FOOD.*"

Following is an analysis of 1945 legislation relating to the conservation of wildlife:

# Horse and Buggy Days

(Continued from page 9)

medium sized bear. I was perspiring profusely at the time, as I had negotiated about half of the nine and one-fourth miles around the refuge. The perspiration flowing through my eye lashes and the heat mirage, dancing about under the intense rays of the sun no doubt confused my faculties in registering what my eyes were trying to focus upon. As I drew nearer to the object step by step, I observed that it was the refuge keeper, down on his hands and knees, cutting out the small growth which grew among the rocks and small boulders along this section of the line.

I approached to within a very few yards before he saw me. The usual greeting occurred, and then I made some comment regarding the labor he was engaged upon. I noticed that his hands were scratched and bleeding slightly here and there. The knees of his breeches were well nigh worn through to the bare knee, and these knees were well calloused. The remarkable pride of this refuge keeper generally applied to anything that he did. His refuge was so well kept that it became an example, to which I sent two or three of my other refuge keepers to observe.

Customarily an axe, scythe, pair of wire cutters and a claw hammer served the purpose in the way of tools to repair and keep in order the refuge lines. This refuge keeper had gone beyond what was required, in order that he may clear out the growth and lessen the fire hazard by using his pocket knife to remove all the small ferns and other growth among the rocks.

Sometime during the open bear season about the year 1924, one of the refuge keepers had been pestered with dogs running bears through his refuge in violation of the law. Much time was spent by this officer to capture the dogs, if possible. Bear dogs were valuable at that time because they were rare animals, and the owners usually paid high prices for them (It was lawful in those days to chase bears with dogs). Finally the refuge keeper succeeded in rounding up the dogs and the owner or owners near the boundary line of the refuge. The refuge keeper informed the bear hunters that any further practice, such as it seemed evident was somewhat intentional, would necessitate his shooting the dogs. The owners became quite violent and abusive, threatening that they would shoot him and throw his dead body inside the refuge. His calm reply to them was, nearly as I can recall: "I have advised you men, and I shall do exactly as I have said. If you shoot me and throw my dead body inside the refuge, I shall hope that my act of duty has dedicated this refuge most convincingly as an absolute sanctuary of the wildlife."

Incidentally, no further trouble occurred, however, one of the dog owners came to me about the matter. He wanted to know whether this refuge keeper would do as he had said, as he valued his dogs greatly. Further, he inquired rather deceptively whether I thought this officer would run the risk of losing his life under circumstances of this kind. My advice to him, knowing this refuge keeper to be quite firm and strictly loyal to his charge, was that he should not make any dangerous gestures toward this officer, as I was convinced that he might provoke him to the point where he may lose his own life instead.

I convinced this individual that it would be well for him to endeavor to control his dogs and make friends with the refuge keeper, whom I knew would use every reasonable precaution to avoid shooting his dogs. It occurs that this individual did thereafter become more sociable and no further trouble occurred.

There are occasions when problems occur with employees, where it appears they either lack loyalty or seem not interested properly to carry on the task involved. This naturally would have to be expected in the personnel among the refuge keepers through the years of trial and error.

It came to my attention that a particular refuge keeper was not too zealous about looking after poachers, who might risk the chance of shooting or capturing game inside the refuge. A problem of this kind would naturally seem rather difficult to solve, however, I resolved to give the matter a rather practical test in due time. Inasmuch as the other work of this refuge keeper was about average, I did not want to offend him or discourage his pursuit of the other duties, wherein he needed all the encouragement possible, to keep things going smoothly in connection with his large refuge, located on a leased tract of land.

I enlisted the services of the district game protector to assist me to carry out my plan. While the refuge keeper was busy cutting out a new section of the boundary line of his refuge, where we had decided to make a change in the line for obvious reasons, I proposed to go in the refuge and fire two shots from a shotgun within close proximity to where he was working. The district protector was in course of patrol for violations in the vicinity. Upon being in the vicinity, he was to rush toward the refuge keeper, apparently uncertain about the exact location of the shots, imploring of him the exact location of the shots and acting considerably perplexed regarding his not dropping his axe to pursue the poachers, who had shot in the refuge within a stone's throw from where he was working. The refuge keeper seemed unconcerned, notwithstanding that he kept steadily at his task of clearing the boundary line. His reply to the district protector was to the effect; that he could not be doing two things at one time.

This refuge keeper lacked the proper interest in his duty, and perhaps did not perceive or else ignored his paramount task as a protector and defender of wildlife. In this instance, the refuge keeper did not stay long in the service.

In contrast a lack of responsibility and loyalty branded this officer a failure, whereas the steadfast application of pride and responsibility stands out in marked distinction where the first two officers are mentioned. They were unquestionably of the quality that is needed to carry on the cause of conservation. It is their kind who provides the sport of hunting and fishing in perpetuity.

Enumerable experiences were of similar routine of the service in finding and retaining the loyal men of those days, to carry on the duties of game refuge keepers out in the wilderness, where they went about their work for the cause of conservation in the remote places. Without doubt the people of Pennsylvania have kindly thoughts toward them and their families, realizing that they were the pioneers who blazed the trail.

*(To be Continued Next Month)*

Photos by W. L. R. Drake.

**A few weeks ago a woman who was visiting the farm home of a friend near Linglestown, Pa., was startled one night upon hearing a vicious hissing in the walls of the room in which she was sleeping. Believing the sound to be made by a reptile she lost no time in vacating the premises. Investigation made later by Game Officials revealed a nest of Barn Owls, the young in various stages of development. The above photos show the farmhouse and the unwelcome guests. Mr. Drake, Commission Photographer, took subsequent pictures of the youngsters from time to time and in a forthcoming issue we expect to have a most interesting pictorial treat for you—say about August or September. Watch for it.**

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

## OFFICIAL 1945 OPEN SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS

(All Shooting Hours Based on Eastern War Time)

Open season includes both dates given, Sundays excepted for game. **On November 1 no hunting of any kind before 9 A. M.** With this exception, shooting hours daily are 8 A. M. to 6 P. M., except from July 1 to September 30 inclusive, 7 A. M. to 8:30 P. M. (See separate summary for Migratory Game hunting hours; also see Special Regulations for hours to set traps in open counties.) Raccoons may be hunted at night, with a noon-to-noon daily limit.

| UPLAND GAME (Small game possession limit two days' bag) | Bag Limits Day | Bag Limits Season | Seasons Open | Seasons Close |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ruffed Grouse | 2 | 8 | Nov. 1 | Nov. 30 |
| Quail, Bobwhite | 4 | 12 | Nov. 1 | Nov. 30 |
| Hungarian Partridges | 2 | 8 | Nov. 1 | Nov. 30 |
| Wild Turkeys (See 7 counties closed)* | 1 | 1 | Nov. 1 | Nov. 30 |
| Ringneck Pheasants, males only | 2 | 8 | Nov. 1 | Nov. 30 |
| Rabbits, Cottontail | 4 | 20 | Nov. 1 | Nov. 30 |
| Squirrels, Gray, Black and Fox | 6 | 24 | Nov. 1 | Nov. 30 |
| Squirrels, Red | Unlimited | | Nov. 1 | Sept. 30, 1946 |
| Grackles (commonly called Blackbirds) | Unprotected until September 30, 1946 | | | |
| Hares (Snowshoe Rabbits) | 2 | 6 | Dec. 17 | Jan. 1, 1946 |
| Raccoons, by individual or hunting party* | 4 | 20 | Oct. 22 | Feb. 1, 1946 |
| Raccoons, by trapping (Statewide)* | | 20 | Nov. 1 | Feb. 1, 1946 |
| Woodchucks (Groundhogs) | Unlimited | | July 1 | Sept. 30 |
| Bear, over one year old, by individual | 1 | 1 | Nov. 26 | Nov. 29 |
| Bear, as above, by hunting party of three or more | 2 | 2 | Nov. 26 | Nov. 29 |
| Deer, male with two or more points to one antler (Statewide), also antlerless deer in that part of southeastern Pennsylvania designated* | 1 | 1 | Dec. 1 | Dec. 15 |
| Deer, as above, by hunting party of six or more | 6 | 6 | Dec. 1 | Dec. 15 |

**NO OPEN SEASON—Sharp-tailed Grouse, Cub Bears and Elk.**

**MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS**—(Seasons fixed by Federal Government. For species and regulations see separate summary.)

**FUR-BEARERS**—(See note under Special Regulations)*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minks, Skunks and Otters* | Unlimited | Nov. 1 | Feb. 1, 1946 |
| Muskrats (By traps only)* | Unlimited | Dec. 1 | Feb. 1, 1946 |
| Beavers (By traps only)* | 2 | Feb. 15 | Mar. 1, 1946 |
| Opossums | Unprotected until September 30, 1946 | | |

***SPECIAL REGULATIONS**

**Turkeys**—Counties of Clarion, Forest, Jefferson, McKean, Snyder, Tioga and Warren closed.

**Raccoon Hunting**—The season begins at noon on the opening date, and ends at same hour on the closing date.

**Raccoon Trapping**—Traps not to be placed before 9 A. M., on the opening date (see instructions below concerning lifting traps on closing date).

**Deer, Southeastern Pennsylvania, Combined Season**—Both sexes, spike bucks excepted, may be killed in the counties of Lancaster, Chester, Montgomery, Delaware, Philadelphia and Bucks, also those parts of Dauphin, Lebanon, Berks, Lehigh and Northampton Counties lying south of U. S. Highway Route No. 22, during the regular season without special permits. A hunter may kill only one deer and the regular hunting party limit applies.

**Beavers**—Statewide trapping permitted, except where dams are posted by Commission. **Non-Residents may not trap beavers.** One person may set, tend or operate 10 traps only. **Traps must not be placed closer than 15 feet** from the waterline on any established beaver house. Trappers are required to keep tags above ice or waterline to facilitate identification without disturbing traps. **Pelts must be tagged within 10 days after season, and may** not be sold or otherwise disposed of until properly tagged. Present them to Protector in District or County where trapped.

**Trapping**—Traps for fur-bearers and raccoons not to be placed before 9 A. M. on Nov. 1 or before 8 A. M. on any later opening date for trapping. The season on the last date indicated for trapping closes at 12 o'clock noon to permit removal of animals caught on the last night of the reason and lifting traps by daylight.

**Snares—No counties open to use of snares.**

(AS FIXED BY COMMISSION AT MEETING ON JUNE 28, 1945)

## LIBERAL SHOOTING SEASONS DECLARED

After having collected information from its entire field organization, and following a joint conference with directors of the Federation of Sportemen's Clubs, the Izaak Walton League, and other interested groups on June 27 for the purpose of securing their views concerning seasons and bag limits this Fall, the Game Commission at its meeting the following day established the full month of November for hunting grouse, quail, wild turkeys, pheasants. Hungarian partridges, rabbits and squirrels; a mid-winter season for Varying Hares (Snowshoe Rabbits) begininng December 17 and ending January 1, 1946; 4 days bear hunting from November 26 to 29 inclusive; and two weeks of buck shooting from December 1 to December 15, except in Lancaster, Chester, Delaware, Philadelphia, Bucks, Montgomery and those portions of Dauphin, Lebanon, Berks, Lehigh and Northampton Counties lying south of Route 22, where a combined season for all deer except spike bucks was declared.

The Commission desires to adhere as closely as possible to the same general hunting dates each year in order to eliminate confusion, and enable hunters to plan their vacations well in advance of its official action.

Although there was some sentiment in favor of either a closed of a short season only on grouse and quail, the Commission decided that neither species would be endangered by a full month. Longer seasons are preferable because of their safety features, and short seasons usually result in greater concentrations of hunters which make heavier inroads on the game and shooting more hazardous.

Although grouse are again rather scarce over large areas, normal hunting has far less effect on the annual supply than abnormal weather, poor nesting seasons, predation, lack of food and impaired breeding cover. Where extensive lumbering operations have been carried on in recent years the birds apparently are holding their own; in extensive forest regions where little or no lumbering has taken place, food and cover conditions are unfavorable for grouse and Varying Hares, due primarily to the destruction of ground cover by former large deer herds.

As a "safety valve" on those species which did not seem as plentiful in numbers as expected during or after last season the Commission cut the season limit on grouse from 10 to 8; the daily and season limits on quail from 5 to 4 and 15 to 12 respectively; the season limit on ringneck pheasants from 12 to 8; and the daily and season limit on rabbits from 5 to 4 and 25 to 20.

The mid-winter season on snowshoe rabbits is an innovation, declared for the purpose of providing this sport when good tracking snows usually exist.

In declaring the four-day bear season ending November 29, which leaves one day between the close of the bear season and the beginning of the deer season, the Commission acceded to the wishes of the sportsmen who desire to make one trip for both animals, thus saving gas and tires.

Several reasons motivated the declaration of a combined season for deer in the eleven counties and parts of counties in southeastern Pennsylvania, i. e., (a) deer are entirely out of place in thickly populated agricultural sections where all but a limited portion of the land is devoted to crops; (b) they are hazardous on highways, especially to transient motorists who do not expect to see these creatures in farming communities; (c) they cause considerable damage to farmers and truckers; (d) and they spoil the sport for small game hunters whose dogs very often chase deer instead of the game they are seeking. No region without large, unbroken forests is suitable for deer, or the hunting thereof with rifles. The request for this combined season came from the landowners and organized sportsmen of the area.

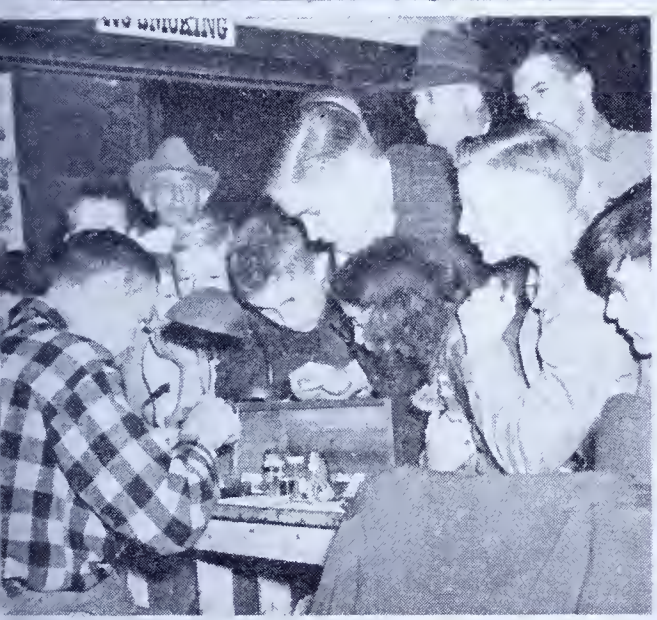
Requests for antlerless deer seasons in a number of widely scattered counties were considered, but the Commission decided to defer such a season elsewhere until men now serving their Country will be home and able to participate in the removal of the surplus animals.

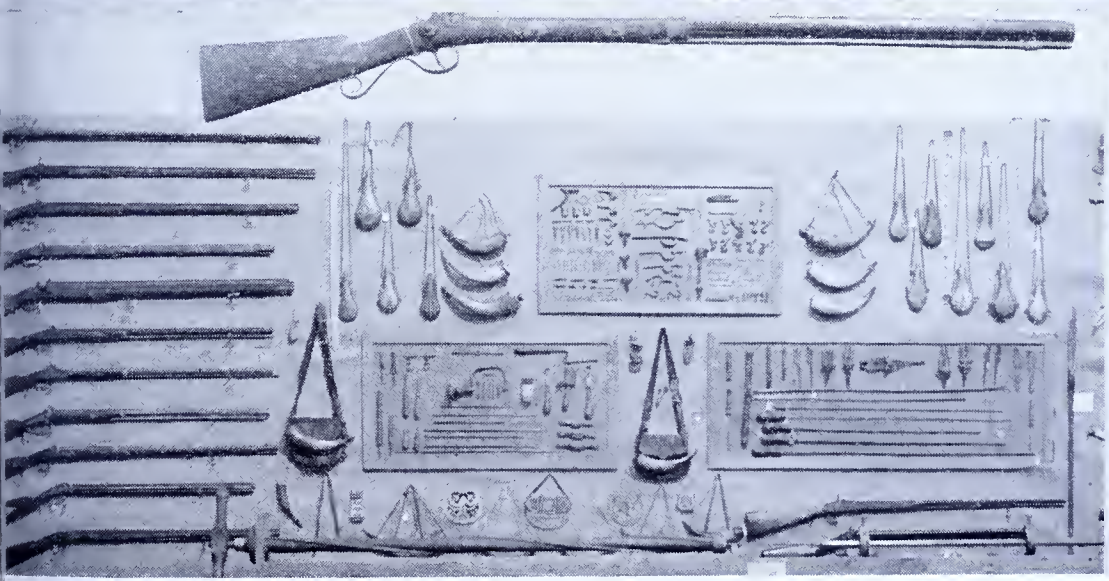
---

The eyes of birds differ greatly. The eyes of song birds are set in the sides of their heads and because of the smallness of their beaks they have perfect vision in all directions. All of the owl clan are meat eaters and front-eyed birds. The Great Horned Owl is a fine specimen of a front-eyed bird; he must turn his head to get a side view because the eyes are fixed and the only movement they make is when they focus for distance. Then the black pupil changes from small to large.

---

Beetles and humans have similar likes and dislikes for sweet and sour tasting foods.





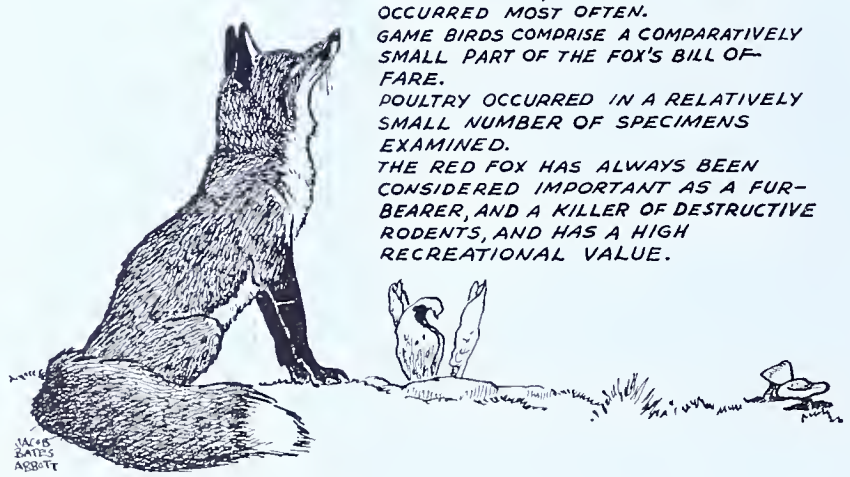
Photos by John Bazzano.

One of the most picturesque wildlife exhibits held in Pennsylvania was sponsored recently by the Junior Chamber of Commerce, Kennett Square. They undertook the demonstration as their project for the year and captured second prize in a Statewide competition as a result.

Above are some of the highlights of the exhibit. At the top is a wildlife garden containing all native live plants and trees and a large variety of mounted animals. A running waterfall created by a return pump was displayed at the left beginning at the uppermost deer and gradually descending to the floor. At left center Deputy Game Protector Gibbs Kane, Jr., West Chester, is demonstrating fly tying to a group of youngsters. At right center is part of one of the finest collection of pistols, powder horns, and molds to be found anywhere in the Country. They are owned by Ed. Mullen, Kennett Square. At the lower left is one of the greatest collections of Kentucky and other rifles, game bags, rifling machines, etc., owned by Walt Grayson, Kennett Square; and at the lower right are placards of the Game Commission and other conservation agencies. Game Protector Peter J. Filkosky was active in helping promote the exhibit.

# DRUMMER GIVES AN OLD ENEMY CREDIT

SAYS REYNARD IS NOT AS RED AS HE IS PAINTED.
AVAILABLE REPORTS OF STUDIES OF THE FOOD HABITS OF RED FOX INDICATE THAT:—
YEAR IN AND YEAR OUT ITEMS MOST FREQUENTLY TAKEN WERE RABBITS AND MICE.
NEXT TO THESE, FRUITS AND INSECTS OCCURRED MOST OFTEN.
GAME BIRDS COMPRISE A COMPARATIVELY SMALL PART OF THE FOX'S BILL OF-FARE.
POULTRY OCCURRED IN A RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBER OF SPECIMENS EXAMINED.
THE RED FOX HAS ALWAYS BEEN CONSIDERED IMPORTANT AS A FUR-BEARER, AND A KILLER OF DESTRUCTIVE RODENTS, AND HAS A HIGH RECREATIONAL VALUE.

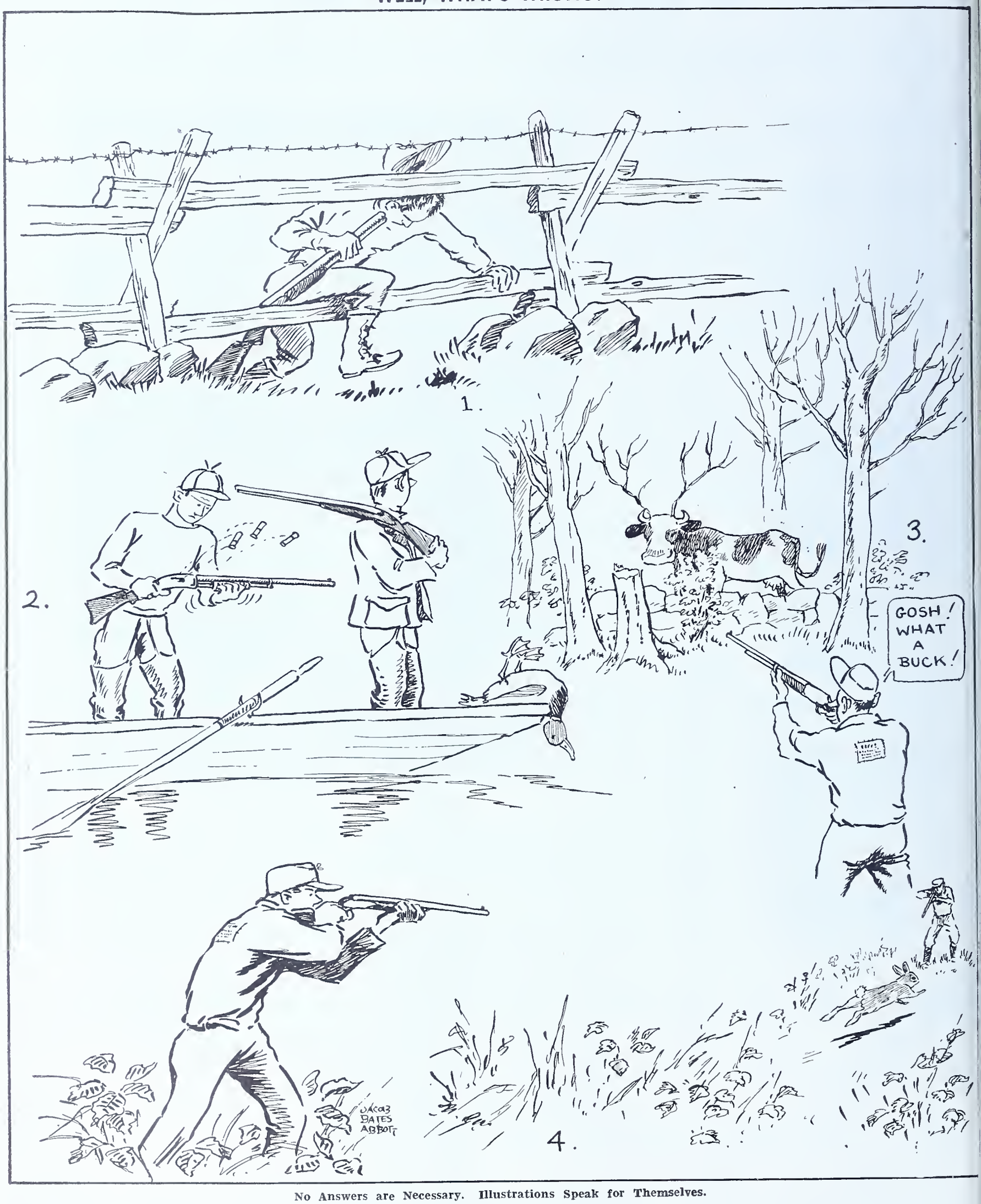


# PENNSYLVANIA Game News

State Library & Museum
DOCUMENTS SECTION

August 1945 Ten Cents

## WELL, WHAT'S WRONG?




No Answers are Necessary. Illustrations Speak for Themselves.

**If you want to help provide better rabbit hunting get behind the Commission's live-game trapping program next winter.**

# 40,000 RABBITS!

**By Wilbur M. Cramer**

NOBODY but a magician can pull rabbits out of a hat. The successful accomplishment of a trick like that requires time, practice, and hard work.

But this isn't a story of magicians with hats and stage rabbits. It is a story of energetic game protectors, deputy game protectors, sportsmen and Boy Scouts who pulled 40,000 rabbits out of box traps last winter.

Because of damage conditions and to remove surplus animals from protected areas, the Game Commission conducted its first rabbit trapping and transfer program in southeastern Pennsylvania in 1928.

Last winter was the eighth year the Commission sponsored statewide trapping and transfer activities and in spite of extremely cold weather, the heaviest snowfall in years, and the manpower shortage, it developed into a record breaker.

Since the Victory garden program started in 1942 the people became really rabbit-conscious, and the Game Commission doubled its efforts to rid the little furry saboteurs from cities and towns where they were damaging gardens, and transfer them to public hunting territory where they would stand a good chance of relieving the meat shortage. When heavy winter snows cover the land and Br'er Rabbit's food supply is scarce, rabbits girdle valuable shrubbery. peach, apple, and other fruit trees, causing much damage to orchards and nurseries. This is another reason why they must be trapped and transferred. Sportsmen have become greatly interested in getting the bunnies out of such areas and putting them where they and their progeny will be accessible to the hunter's gun.

Many of the Pennsylvania sportsmen's organizations have made the trapping and transfer program one of their main projects during the winter months. Junior sportsmen, Boy Scouts, and individual boys have done an excellent job and deserve equal credit with the adult sportsmen in this work. The trapping program plays a dual role in benefitting these boys. It gives them a better understanding and love of wildlife and practically assures their becoming good sportsmen. Then, too, it keeps them busy at something constructive and lessens the chance of their being juvenile delinquents.

School teachers who are sportsmen have an especially good opportunity to interest young people and to direct the trapping activities of Boy Scouts, junior sportsmen and other youths coming under their jurisdiction. An outstanding case of this kind is that of a Delaware County School principal who organized his students into a

*(Continued on Page 24)*

## PREPARE NOW!

Prepare now for this Fall and Winter live game trapping program. If 40,000 rabbits were pulled out of the so-called hat last winter 80,000 can be secured this winter. All the Commission needs to double the ante is the continued support of cooperating groups and individuals and the assistance of those who did not participate last year.

How about making the live game trapping program one of your major undertakings this year? It will pay you big dividends.

# BACKYARD ADVENTURES WITH WILDLIFE

By N. R. CASILLO

*Illustrations by the Author*

A Tussock Moth Caterpillar on a Honey Locust.

I AM one of those persons who periodically picks up and shoves off for far places. Why? Well, apparently it is to hunt or fish, but more to the point, it is to gaze once again on the ragged skyline of the spruces on the distant shore of the lake; to listen to the limpidly clear sweet whistle of the white-throated sparrow; to experience those intangibles that any lover of the wilderness spaces yearns for every now and then. You know what I mean or you would not be reading this.

And it must be admitted that those haunts of the loon and Canada goose do something that takes the edge off of that craving for the primitive that lies deep within the soul of every man.

However, after years of such experiences I came to the conclusion that to see and study and finally come to know the mysteries of the myriad wild things that surround us, one should really explore his backyard and its environs.

"But," you may insist, "those things are so commonplace."

Certainly they are commonplace, as commonplace as the radio that reposes in your living room. But, unless it is your business, what do you know about the intricacies of that selfsame radio?

You see, we may not be as familiar with those commonplace things as we think. Then, when we do begin to probe into their complexities, they are no longer commonplace to us. I know precious little about radio, yet, even when listening to an absorbing program I frequently cannot help but think that those electrical waves translated into sound by the magic instrument hurtle through space at a speed of 186,000 miles per second!

Catbirds! Commonplace? I have known these familiar mahogany-bottomed mimics since childhood. I scarcely give them a second glance unless they happen to be on mischief bent. Yet, during a blustery sleet storm on the 24th of November 1936, I glanced out of my kitchen window to an ice-encased vine huddling to an arbor on the back porch and was electrified to see what I thought was a catbird.

I looked at the creature in utter stupification. It was perched on the arbor pecking disconsolately at the few frozen berries still clinging to the vine.

All the bird lore I ever knew just simply fluttered from my brain. It never for a moment occurred to me that the general run of catbirds (and that means all of them) were by then consorting in the gentler clime of the Gulf States. And then, just as my powers of observation once again began to assert themselves, the bird disappeared into the blinding storm.

My long-suffering wife took one look at me and wanted to know if I had seen a ghost.

"Champ—Champ," I faltered, "I just saw a catbird."

"A catbird, huh? Take it easy," she added soothingly, "you'll be all right in a minute. Remember, you acted exactly the same way last winter when you said you saw a yellow-bellied something or other."

The bird returned on the following day and again on the 26th. By this time I was convinced that I was wrong. This bird was larger than a catbird and more stoutly constructed. Indeed, when fluffed up perched on the garage or porch roof it resembled a gigantic chickadee. Yet, what was it?

On December 8, 9, and 13 it again obliged me with brief glimpses. But it was not until February the 4th of the following year that I tumbled to its identity.

On that day I saw it in flight between the nearby garage and the porch. The tip of the outspread tail was faintly white, a feature that I had not previously noticed. "Holy smokes, can it be a Canada jay?" I gulped.

These Sumach Galls were made by Gall-forming Aphids or Plant Lice.

A small Bullfrog peering out from between lily pads (a flashlight photo).

Well, it was a Canada jay, a wanderer far from its usual haunts, and the wonder of having seen it here in Western Pennsylvania grew when I read in Forbush's *Birds of Mass. and other New England States* that "the Canada Jay is an inhabitant of the northern wilderness where it consorts with the mighty moose. Its home is in boreal coniferous forests and swamps where civilized man seldom penetrates."

In 1938 the bird did not return or, what is more likely, I failed to see it. It is credited with four visits in 1939 and one, its last, on January 1, 1940. That it was the same bird in every case is substantiated by its persistent adherence to customary perching spots—the garage, porch, and arbor.

Our own W. E. Clyde Todd, who wrote that monumental *Birds of Western Pennsylvania* reports of only one specimen having been recorded in these parts and that was in Forest County back in 1923.

To see strange things in strange places is taken as a matter of course, but to see strange things in the familiar setting of your own backyard is something else.

My backyard is approximately 50 x 150 feet and is located less than a mile from the very heart of the downtown district. Yet, in the past six years I have positively identified fifty-one different species of birds seen either in or from it. And the list ranges from the English sparrow to that rarity (at least in these parts), the black-billed cuckoo; although a woodcock, a little green heron, and a whip-poor-will, if judged by the infrequency of their visits, divide honors with the cuckoo.

One afternoon I encountered an elderly neighbor who lives three houses down the street.

"Say," he opened up after the exchange of greetings, "would you say that I was in my dotage if I told you I saw a deer early this morning?"

"That would depend on where you saw it," I laughed.

"Well, that's exactly it," he said ruefully, "this one was in front of the house. Could it be a deer?"

"Could be" I replied after recalling that deer have been seen on the New Castle-Pulaski road, a secondary highway flanking the Shenango River, and we live less than a quarter of a mile from the river albeit a few miles down from where the deer were seen.

Two days later I saw the animal mincing slowly across a bare clay rise between my premises and a lot in the adjoining block.

As I watched the graceful creature (a young buck was my guess) it quickly picked up speed and then bounded up a swale and out of sight behind a row of houses on the next street.

I had seen aright for there were its tracks clearly impressed in the firm clay. Indeed, I preserved a quartet of the clearest imprints from the weather by covering them with a plank.

For more than a month I had the unique experience of showing them to my outdoor friends; genuine deer tracks thirty-two feet and seven inches from the backline of my lot. There was only one fly in the ointment. Some of my less genteel intimates invariably inquired if any one in the neighborhood kept a goat.

The list of small mammals seen, encountered, and avoided within the confines of my backyard include chipmunks, fox and gray squirrels, cottontail rabbits, a lone muskrat, field mice, house mice, house rats; shrews and moles; skunks galore and a single weasel; opossums in quantity; two kinds of bats.

If you are up on your *taxonomy* you will see that the foregoing list represents five orders of mammals, 1) rodents or gnawers, 2) insect-eaters, 3) flesh-eaters, 4) pouched, and 5) flying mammals. Oh yes, if the deer was to be included there would be a representative of the hoofed group. Not bad considering the location is only eight-tenths of a mile from the shopping district in a city of 50,000.

**A Yellow Warbler that somehow hanged itself in the crotch of a willow tree.**

In his incomparable *Walden,* Thoreau wrote, "There is an incessant influx of novelty into the world, and yet we tolerate incredible dullness."

The other morning I went out into the yard with blood in my eye. I was determined to once and for all do away with the multitude of ant hills that had appeared on the lawn overnight. A drop or two of a syrupy poison on strategically placed squares of cardboard would do the trick.

Shortly after setting out the deadly sweet the ants clustered about to imbibe their last. As I watched one particular colony

*(Continued on Page 26)*

**A common nest in an uncommon place. A Mourning Dove's nest on the ground.**

**The funnel web of a Grass Spider. You have seen them on your lawn on dewy mornings.**

# RETRIEVER A BIG HUNTING ASSET

## *Makes Cripples Count In Game Bag*

### NOTED CHICAGO OUTDOOR EDITOR RECOMMENDS GREATER USE OF HUNTING DOGS

**By Bob Becker**

*Reprinted Courtesy Illinois Conservation*

Bob Becker and a "friend" who tried to help him with his writing chores. The dog is a Clumber Spaniel imported from England to test on American game.

A nice Retriever, this pointer delivers a quail to his master.

A STYLISH pointer or setter pointing a covey of quail in a weed thicket; an eager spaniel making a swell retrieve of a crippled pheasant; a merry beagle bounding across a field in pursuit of a rabbit; and a line crashing Chesapeake or Labrador retriever swimming toward a blind with a wounded mallard drake—these are some of the memories that all of Illinois hunters have at this time of the year. The bird seasons are over. In most cases the hunter can lay aside his gun and then start counting the days until the next open season. This is not easy for either the hunter or the dogs that eagerly go afield each fall to hunt with their bosses.

Hunting dogs play a leading role in the lives of many Illinois sportsmen. This is an encouraging fact both from the standpoint of the sport itself and the viewpoint of the conservationist. Unfortunately, however, not enough dogs are put to work to help Illinois and all American hunters have more fun in the field, and reduce the tremendous losses of crippled birds each season. These losses run into millions of ducks which not only are not brought home and used for food, but in many cases die a slow death in the marshes. And the loss of pheasants due to long range shooting and no dog to pick up the cripples is another cause of concern to the upland game hunter. In fact, even if most of us didn't like dogs we should be inclined to use one in the field if for no other reason than the humane angle of recovering game birds that are fatally nicked with shot.

We have been hunting over various breeds for many years. And down thru the years we've been carrying the torch for any dog that will go out and search for a wing tipped bird and thus reduce losses due to crippling. But, in our estimation, the most potent reason for using a hunting dog, aside from the humane angle of finding wounded birds, is the FUN of getting your game with the aid of a devoted canine partner. And he doesn't have to be a purebred with pedigree a mile long to give the owner a lot of fun in the hunting field. If the pooch has a nose and will get those cripples he can't help but add a lot of fun to any hunt. In fact, a hunter who doesn't use a dog misses about 80 per cent of the fun of a hunt because the companionship of a dog and the way they perform in the field keep you amused all the time.

Last fall we checked one party of novice pheasant hunters to see what luck they were having. One fellow in this dogless party admitted that of 3 pheasants he had downed during the first hour, he'd recovered just one. Then he shot at another and missed it.

Came another chance and this one he killed stone dead in a heavy slough, he said. Couldn't find it. So he finally shot another bird and recovered it.

This hunter had taken 5 birds from Illinois stock of wild game. Of this number he got his limit of two. That makes 3 wasted which adds up to about $6 worth of pheasants left in the field to get a limit of two. The above case may represent the extreme of bird losses. However, we do not have to guess at the average game bird losses of hunters. Actual studies of pheasant hunting and hunters made in several states tell us exactly the number of birds a dogless hunter manages to find and the number they do not recover.

For example, a study of hunting in Iowa shows that in quail shooting the use of good dogs showed a loss of only 4.3 per cent of the birds shot, whereas hunters who shot quail without a good retrieving dog, or those who shot quail as incidental to rabbit hunting (without any dogs) lost 50 per cent of their birds.

The scientists who checked game bird losses probed the experiences of hundreds of pheasant hunters, too. Here are some facts they uncovered which none of us can laugh off: experienced pheasant hunters with good setters, pointers, spaniels, retrievers or other breeds lost zero number of birds up to 19 per cent of those shot. Hunters without dogs lost from 33 per cent up to better than 50 per cent of the ringnecks they dropped.

One paragraph of the report is of especial interest to all of us who like to hunt. It said:

"It is plain that a good dog is of inestimable value in holding down the percentage of cripples escaping. In duck hunting the utility of special breeds of dogs that are able to navigate soupy mud or cold water scarcely needs to be mentioned."

The sportsmen's code requires him to search diligently for an injured bird. It's a known fact that a good retrieving dog greatly increases the chances of finding a cripple. Thus a good dog will bring the hunter increased satisfaction in hunting. The big point is this: any kind of a retrieving dog will bring in more cripples than a hunter can find, and hence the sportsman need not take shots at as many birds to reach a bag limit. In other words, a hunting dog is not only a game saver but also helps a hunter conserve ammunition.

Of course, not every hunter can afford a highly trained, expensive setter, pointer, spaniel, retriever or other dog trained to find game and retrieve cripples. We're well aware of this fact because we've always wanted to own one of those $1000 superdoopers. But we can't afford one like that. However, many a hunter who feels he can't invest in some kind of a hunting dog will be surprised how much he can buy with some of his luxury or "good time" money. And thousands of sportsmen who can't afford to buy a dog trained for months by a professional can get a young dog and put enough time on it to make it at least a fair bird finder.

We've been wondering if after the war sportsmen's clubs would not find it worth while to sponsor amateur training classes for bird dog owners to give more hunters the fundamentals of dog work and perhaps sell them on the use of a sporting breed. A spaniel club of which I was president for many years used to conduct one of these schools for the average hunter and field trial enthusiast. The basic idea was this: many springer owners preferred to do their own training, so the club got a good springer man to act as coach and teacher of a class.

Every other Sunday or once a month the boys brought their dogs to the open air dog training school. The men (and ladies, too) lined up with their dogs on leash and were told about the lesson. Perhaps it was to teach the dog to sit, or drop to the word "Hup" and the hand signal that goes with it. Everybody was put thru the lesson. Then each person was given a small mimeo sheet with the lesson and told to work with the dog at home. At the next open air meeting the instructor checked the progress of each owner and his dog, advised on mistakes being made, and straightened out problems. Then on to another lesson. Motion pictures of sound spaniel work on game supplemented the lessons.

This type of school was conducted for several seasons. Of course, no one can expect a well trained dog from this routine UNLESS the owner will work conscientiously and spend some time with his dog. But you'd be surprised what this open air school did to educate dog owners on the proper work of springers, the meaning of obedience and control, how a dog should quarter its ground, etc.

This same system of group instruction has been in use to teach simple obedience training for many years. We are wondering if clubs in this state would not have a lot of fun with such a class, which could be a popular, worthwhile project and do much to teach shooters the advantages of different breeds. The fundamental training work is about the same for all breeds because every hunting dog needs to be taught to walk at heel, sit down when told, come when called and take hand signals. This obedience work is one of the most important things in the education of any hunting dog.

One of the most useful breeds for the hunter who likes a mixed bag is the English springer spaniel, a gay bird finder and retriever. It flushes its game and saves many a cripple every year, because it's a good retriever. This well trained springer has just picked up a pheasant.

Fortunately there is a wide choice of hunting breeds which will not only find game for us on a hunting trip but also pick

*(Continued on Page 27)*

Photo by Ben Overman.

They've got a covey. This pair of English Setters go on point in the Mattoon-Effingham country of Illinois.

This little cub was orphaned when its mother was disturbed during hibernation.

# HORSE AND BUGGY DAYS OF THE GAME REFUGE SYSTEM

## CONCLUSION

THE home life experiences of these men and their families were often trying. An event in the instance of a baby being born to the wife and refuge keeper, relates how in the dead of winter this refuge keeper improvised a sled and loaded the wife in the sled, providing her with all the straw and blankets he could crowd around her, to keep her warm and comfortable. A slow prodigious trip was made through deep snow by horse and sled for a distance of twenty-five miles, over mountain roads and trails, to where the baby could be born under the care of a doctor and feminine help. This child is a healthy young citizen today, and the wife and husband are likewise healthy and remain contented in the service, now, of course, passing onward toward the sunset of life. The hardship of this eventful night was accepted as a matter of course and meant nothing in their young lives.

When refuges were first established dwellings for homes were difficult to find immediately adjacent to the refuge, or on the lands, if these lands had been purchased. Those that were available, in most instances, were mere shanties or ramshackle abandoned houses. The Game Commission, having no authority to erect buildings or perhaps lacking the funds, was compelled to get whatever buildings available, consequently the experiences of the refuge keepers and their families in these homes were many and trying.

One of the young refuge keepers of that day recalls how the doctor had failed or was unable for some reason to be on hand, when they were going to have a new baby come into their home. The weather was severely cold outside, down to about twenty degrees below zero, and in spite of all they could do the baby came anyway. Inside the house the temperature stood at twenty degrees above zero, regardless of the wood being heaped into the fire in the stove. Before morning all the flowers the amiable wife had provided to lend color and cheer to the home were frozen stiff, even though they had been placed near the stove to prevent freezing. A deputy game protector, who had been assigned to some special duty and was at the home, placed his false teeth in a glass of water when he retired for the night. Upon awakening in the morning he found them frozen in a solid cake of ice within the glass.

Every effort was put forth by the game refuge keeper to comfort the wife and the new baby. Water was heated time after time, to furnish warm packs necessary and other necessary things. Dad was up and going all the while, as he proceeded from one thing to another. The wife came through despite the absence of a doctor or any other help; so did the baby. This baby is now a young man in our armed forces, serving in World War No. 2, overseas. Again this proves that not only were the game refuge keepers hardy men, but likewise were their wives hardy women.

Another of the younger refuge keepers relates how he had been assigned to the task of assisting in a search for a kidnapped child, which it had been rumored was in a hunting camp back in the mountains near his refuge headquarters. He took along his wife and small son, to help check the camps and perhaps throw off suspicion in connection with the search. A severe blizzard and snow storm stranded them back in the mountains. The telephone line, running from their headquarters, had been broken down by fallen trees, and the snow kept piling to a depth up to their waists. All communication had been broken off with the outer world. Their vehicle could not be moved for twenty days, and the phone was not made serviceable for thirty-one days. Wherever there is a will, there is a way! The husband and wife finally, after about a week of this isolation, waded snow to their waists, to get the young son out where a relative could care for him. They came back and labored, both of them, to remove the fallen trees and brush from the road, which gave them an outlet to the outside world. Necessity provided the incentive, and they came through happy and hopeful toward the future. This officer is still in the service today. As he ponders back in the retrospect, this eventful experience of hardship is referred to as one of the pleasant ones in his experience as a refuge keeper.

Deeds of exceptional kindness and care to foundling immature wild animals of various kinds were routine acts upon the part of the refuge keeper and members of his family. In those early days of building up the deer herds and other wildlife, it was not unusual to find wildlife at almost any refuge keeper's headquarters, where every effort was put forth to nurture and develop

It was later found and turned over to a Game Protector who reared it as a nipple and bottle baby. The panda arouses its curiosity.

## BY M. E. SHERMAN

these wild creatures to sturdy stock for liberation and the replenishment of the shot out hunting grounds.

During a patrol through his refuge in the midst of the winter of 1923-24 one of the refuge keepers heard the plaintive cry of what appeared to be a small baby. The weather was rather raw and cold; the date being January 29, about the time young bears are born. The refuge keeper immediately made a rapid investigation in the direction of the sound, realizing that a helpless young bear could not last long in such weather. Upon approaching closer to where he determined the sound emanated, a disturbance was heard in the brushy undergrowth of the forest. Again the plaintive cry was heard within a few feet from where he was standing. Lo and behold, there lay before him a newly born baby bear! The refuge keeper immediately gathered the little helpless animal up. It was wrapped in his large red handkerchief and such other cloth materials as he could provide under the circumstances, and then carefully placed in his hunting coat.

Two or three miles had to be negotiated before the refuge keeper would arrive where he had tethered his horse in a small shed at the foot of the mountain. However, he rapidly traveled the distance, and he was soon astride his sturdy and dependable riding horse. Rapid progress was made to a village at the foot of the mountain, where additional comfort was provided for the small bear during a brief stop. Several miles had to be traveled by way of horseback before the little bear would be in the care of the kindly wife of the refuge keeper. This distance was made in due time, and soon the little fellow was placed in a little crib, just as carefully prepared as though a baby had come to the refuge keeper and his wife.

For days and weeks this little animal was carefully fed with an eye dropper and such other convenient methods as seemed suitable to its age as it grew. The little animal developed pneumonia after about three or four weeks of age. I personally experienced the scene in the home, as this little fellow struggled between life and death under the falling tears of the benevolent refuge keeper's wife. The local doctor was called, and he administered service which rallied the little animal. In due time Teddy grew and grew to a size where he became unruly. Then he was ushered off by official orders to serve as an attraction at the wild animal exhibits, that were being conducted by the Game Commission in those days.

The intense love for wildlife among the refuge keepers and their families was frequently exemplified by their many acts of kindness and care, even to the most lowly of wild creatures. An outstanding illustration relates the careful maneuvering and kindly handling of a skunk, which had been caught in a trap

**Some of the "orphan" fawns turned over to the Commission in a single Spring by persons who thought they had been deserted. Leave the babes in the woods is the Commission's warning.**

**It turned out to be a fine specimen of skunk.**

by one of these officers. While in tour of inspection with the *Chief of Division of Land Management* about the year of 1925-26, the route of travel followed the course of predatory animal traps set out by the refuge keeper. As they approached one of these traps, it was observed from quite a distance that some animal was in the trap. It developed to be a fine specimen of skunk. This fur bearing animal not being in lawful open season for capture became a problem for the refuge keeper to release. Without a moment's hesitation he began working slowly toward the animal, talking to it all the time as he held out his hands, pitying the animal for having been caught. As the refuge keeper slowly and carefully approached the trapped animal, the *Chief of Division of Land Management* hastily retraced his step to a safe distance, and to his utter amazement and fascination, the refuge keeper carefully released the animal from the trap without any harm to same. The lowly released animal limped up the hill, perhaps giving his humble thanks.

This experience would not have given much concern had the creature been other than a skunk. In the instance of this little animal, most people have the greatest respect for its potent defense, and would not have had any regard for its life. Complete understanding and a rare technique in sympathy toward this trapped creature, certainly caused it to realize that a friend was there instead of an enemy.

There were experiences in forest fire control and fire fighting wherein these game refuge keepers gave unsparingly of their physical bodies and time. Likewise did their wives and families perform many tasks worthy of mention, to aid these officers of the forest. All night watches were kept at telephones and food was prepared and sent to them, as they labored with lashing flames of wild forest fires.

In the midst of raging forest fires, there were frequently acts of heroism in trying to rescue wildlife caught in the path of this red monster. It was not unusual nor did it seem extraordinary to these men, if they performed some act which actually endangered their own lives in rescues, especially where the young of wildlife was involved.

A tremendous forest fire raged for about three days and nights during the early 1920's on State Forestry Lands on which a large game refuge was located. The forester in charge of the region estimated the limit in acreage burned ran into the thousands of acres. The fire had broken out of control several times, and finally reached the large refuge established on the State Forestry Lands. The refuge keeper in charge of this refuge had remained on duty many hours past a normal working day, especially in so arduous a task as forest fire fighting. Despite all he could do with his crew of men, the fire broke through and burned several hundred acres of the game refuge.

The refuge keeper in this instance had gone past his fiftieth milestone in life, but seemed not to realize this as he labored on

*(Continued on Page 28)*

# TRANSACTIONS OF THE COMMISSION'S MEETING JUNE 28, 1945

Photos by Leo A. Luttringer, Jr.

Members of the John M. Phillips Arboretum Committee looking over preliminary plans for that memorial on Game Lands No. 25 in Elk County. Left to right: Dr. H. E. Kilgus, Member of the Commission from Brockway; Prof. Victor Beede, Head, Dept. of Forestry, The Pennsylvania State College; W. Gard Conklin, Chief, Division of Lands of the Commission; Mr. Hall Stackpole, son of Harry C. Stackpole, former member of the Commission; Harry B. Hostetter, Lancaster; Ross L. Leffler, President of the Commission; Commissioners Harold Moltz, Williamsport, John C. Herman, Harrisburg, and Seth Gordon, the Executive Director, in plaid shirt.

FOLLOWING a recently established policy of the Commission, we are giving below the highlights of its meeting held in Harrisburg, June 28, 1945.

All members of the Commission were in attendance. Inasmuch as the primary purpose of the meeting was to establish seasons and bag limits, the Commission, in keeping with past practices, invited representatives of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, the State Division of the Izaak Walton League, the State Trappers Association, and others interested to meet at a round table conference the afternoon before, and express opinions or make recommendations. Joint gatherings of this kind have always proved wholesome and fruitful.

Highlights of its business meeting the next day included:

*Propagation and Distribution*—Further study of this future program having been made, the Commission approved it with a proviso that in the northern half of the State about two-thirds of the annual ringneck stocking be released in the Fall and one-third held over for Spring, whereas in the southern half all birds be held for Spring distribution unless it becomes necessary to release some hens prior to the hunting season to relieve crowded conditions.

*Predator Control*—In an endeavor to boost trapping operations this fall, Game Protector Arthur Logue and another competent officer will visit each Division and give the field men further instructions and promote intensive predator campaigns by sportsmen's organizations.

*Birds for Field Trials*—The Commission has always endeavored to cooperate with recognized field trial groups in helping further this popular sport, but in recent years has not supplied birds, other than day-old chicks to be raised, to these groups. A conference was held with representatives of various field trial groups relative to furnishing them birds on an equal or matching basis, with a limit of 25 birds for each scheduled date of such trials.

As a result of this conference it was decided to provide birds for accredited clubs on the basis of one bird furnished by the Commission for each one purchased or raised and liberated by the club. Unless otherwise specified the birds are to be liberated only on grounds open to public hunting, such releases to be supervised by an agent of the Commission. No birds will be supplied for trials held during the open seasons for pheasants or quail, or within three days prior thereto. The sponsoring organizations must safeguard the birds as far as possible against injury.

Birds shall be furnished only for trials which have been publicly announced and advertised at least sixty days in advance of the event. Applications for birds for spring trials must be made prior to January 1; those for fall trials prior to May 1, together with definite or approximate dates, and the number of birds required. Sponsoring organizations must always agree to place feed where the birds are to be liberated two days in advance, and must continue feeding them for at least ten days following the conclusion of the trial.

The Commission's willingness to supply birds under the above plan shall in no way affect the availability of day-old pheasant or quail chicks to field trial groups to be raised by them. The foregoing plan shall not become operative until after the war.

*Pheasant Distribution Quotas*—The Commission discussed past practices in connection with pheasant distributions, and decided they were fundamentally sound. It agreed to continue such distributions on the basis of the amount of good pheasant range and suitable farm acreage in each county. Such distribution is believed to be both fair and equitable, and the Commission will adhere as closely as possible to such policy in the future.

*Day-Old-Chicks*—Upon learning of the excellent response received from organized sportsmen on the day-old-chick program, the Commission decided to expand this operation considerably in the future, provided more organizations can be induced to cooperate.

The Commission was informed that sportsmen and others interested had requested 7,415 pheasant eggs, 46,640 day-old pheasant chicks, 8,950 six-week-old pheasants, 24 day-old quail, and 336 six-week-old quail for cooperative rearing work this summer to assure more birds for stocking.

*Rabbit Propagation*—Following lengthy consideration and study of this phase of its program, the Commission concurred in the recommendations submitted as follows:

That artificial propagation is not advisable due to the excessive cost, that the purchase of special rabbit propagation areas is not necessary, and that fencing present areas would be foolish.

That much more can be gained by increasing the live-trapping program, especially in the populated districts, and making division-wide and in some areas inter-divisional distributions.

To increase and intensify the management and development work on present land holdings and restrict additional land purchases until present holdings are properly managed, and to resurvey present Propagation Areas and other leased land and abandon those that have no further value.

It was also decided to discontinue entirely the purchase of western rabbits, also to initiate necessary control over all rabbit importations by organizations and individuals to guarantee that only desirable animals will be brought into the State.

*Public Relations*—The Commission authorized the employment of several capable part-time lecturers, believing it desirable to have representatives strategically located throughout the Commonwealth for use during emergencies. These individuals will be paid a fair honorarium for their services and expenses.

On the heels of the above action, the Commission instructed that Mr. Randolph Thompson, Senior Traveling Lecturer, who has for the past ten or more years been doing such a splendid job speaking and showing pictures to sportsmen's and other organizations, be relieved of that assignment to devote the major part of his time to a general education program among the schools, Boy Scouts, farm youth, and other groups.

*Personnel*—Meritorious service salary increases for all eligible field officers and for certain members of the office staff were approved.

Charles F. Stambaugh, Head Game Protection Clerk, Division of Law Enforcement, was transferred to the Division of Propagation and Distribution to handle general clerical duties.

The Commission welcomed the return of Stanley R. Cooper, a Junior Disbursement Bookkeeper in the Division of Accounting and Budget, who was honorably discharged from military service recently, and regrettably accepted the resignation of Game Protector Raymond E. Kauffman, of Mattawanna. Mr. Kauffman recently completed 25 years of loyal and faithful service, and a testimonial thereof will be found elsewhere in this issue.

E. G. Musser of Sunbury was employed as an Advanced Technician for the primary purpose of aiding farm-game cooperators and other landowners to establish practices which will benefit agriculture as well as wildlife. Mr. Musser is a soil conservation expert, and it will be his job to help cooperating landowners plan their future farm programs to the best interests of themselves and wildlife.

*Phillips Memorial*—Dr. H. E. Kilgus, Chairman of the Phillips Memorial Arboretum Committee, invited the members thereof to meet July 14 and 15 near the site of the proposed memorial to discuss plans for its establishment and development.

*Organization Reorientation*—The Commission was given a brief verbal report concerning the launching of the new redistricting plan effective June 1, which was inaugurated to increase efficiency and decrease expenses by requiring each field officer to perform all operations in the reduced territory assigned him.

*Legislation*—The Commission was informed that additional bills passed by the recent General Assembly were approved by the Governor.

*Sen. 577,* to require persons killing big game to forward the stub from the tag to the Commission within five (5) days after the close of the season for that particular animal, and providing penalties. *Act No. 200, approved May 15, 1945.*

*Sen. 628,* to increase the bear damage appropriation from $3,000 to $5,000 annually. *Act No. 201, approved May 15, 1945.*

*Sen. 629,* to authorize the Commission through its agents to post beaver colonies where trapping would not be desirable during an open season. *Act No. 202, approved May 15, 1945.*

The Commission was further advised that Governor Martin, in accordance with its recommendation, vetoed Sen. 293 to increase fixed charges on State Game Lands from five cents to six cents per acre.

*Special Fox Hunting Petition*—Having been informed that the sponsors had filed a petition in accordance with law and that such filing and action was properly advertised, the Commission certified a special fox hunting season in Perry County, the close period beginning May 2 and ending June 30.

*Seasons and Bag Limits*—After having obtained all the information possible concerning the prospective supply of game and furbearers from its field officers and interested sportsmen and others, the Commission established the seasons and bag limits appearing on Page 32.

The findings of fact which motivated the Commission's decision in establishing these regulations were numerous and conclusive and are summarized as follows:

(a) *Small Game*—Losses during the past winter, except in the case of bobwhite quail, were comparatively small. The ruffed grouse is again going through a cycle of low population levels, aggravated by lack of cover in extensive forest regions where little or no lumbering has taken place in recent years and the ground cover has been choked out or destroyed by former large deer herds, conditions which also adversely affected the supply of varying hares.

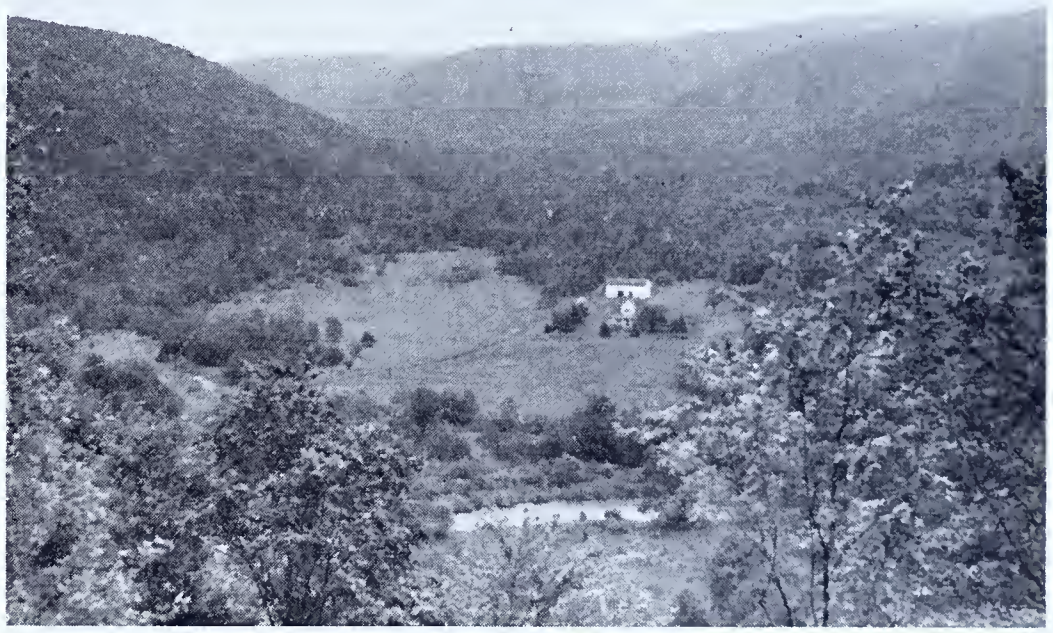
The Commission is of the opinion that normal hunting has less effect on the annual supply of game than unsatisfactory food and cover conditions, adverse weather during the breeding season, etc. The Commission, therefore, does not believe it necessary or desirable to close the season statewide for any species, notwithstanding expressions of sentiment favoring either a closed season or a shortened season for ruffed grouse and bobwhite quail, and that the prospective supply of small game will justify a general open hunting season for the full month of November, with bag limits comparable to or slightly lower than those in effect during the previous year.

*Varying Hares*—These animals have shown some increase throughout the northern part of the Commonwealth but are still not present in sufficient numbers to provide hunting comparable to that of the period when ground cover was much more dense in their normal habitat. In keeping with the expressed desire of the residents of northern Pennsylvania, the Commission believes it best, therefore, to declare a comparatively short season for these animals at a time when tracking snows usually prevail.

*Raccoons*—Raccoons apparently have continued to increase throughout the Commonwealth, and to make inroads on the wild turkey and ruffed grouse populations. It is, therefore, desirable to continue the longer season and larger bag limits of last year on a statewide basis.

*Woodchucks*—Woodchucks have increased materially throughout the Commonwealth due to reduced hunting pressure for several years caused by war conditions, namely, ab-

*(Continued on Page 29)*



Refuge Headquarters and a view of Game Lands No. 25.

Members of the Arboretum Committee stretch their legs following a morning's tour of the refuge area.

# RECOMMENDATIONS ON ACQUIRING LANDS FOR COMMISSION USE

*(Based Upon Suggestions Submitted to the Commission By Its Field Employes and Others Interested)*

## (A) STATE GAME LANDS
### (Title Vested in Commonwealth)

GENERAL POLICY

Early History—The Game Commission began establishing refuges (then called preserves) for game on State Forests under the Act of 1905. The Act of April 16, 1915, authorized leasing lands for such purpose, and a number of tracts in regions remote from State Forests were leased for refuges and hunting grounds, the Commission paying the taxes. Later leasing lands for Auxiliary Projects was also authorized.

The Commission, having accumulated funds, obtained approval of the Legislature in 1919 (Act of June 20, 1919) to purchase lands for game preserve purposes, with a limitation of $10.00 per acre.

The first lands considered came before the Commission on July 10, 1919, but no purchases were authorized. At the next meeting, held October 15, 1919, the Commission unanimously directed the purchase of "5,000 to 10,000 acres" in each of several localities, all of them remote from State Forests.

The first actual land purchase contracts were approved by the Commission on January 8, 1920, the tracts varying in size from 3,000 acres up to 8,000 acres. The deed for the first purchase is dated June 15, 1920, and was for 6288.5 acres in Jones Township, Elk County, identified as State Game Lands No. 25, costing $17,293.52. (The number assigned was identical with its game refuge identification, having previously been under lease for refuge and hunting ground purposes).

Present Holdings—Appended hereto will be found a complete tabulation of land purchases from 1920 to May 31, 1944. (Table 1) showing that the total acreage actually conveyed on the latter date was 749,997.9 acres, for which the consideration paid was $2,894,556.27, at an average of $3.86 per acre.

As of May 31, 1944, the State Game Land Holdings were divided as follows: Division "A," 27,454.7 acres; Division "B," 121,288.7 acres; Division "C," 152,955.3 acres; Division "D," 107,687.0 acres; Division "E," 191,306.5 acres; Division "F," 87,287.2 acres; and Division "G," 62,018.5 acres, or a grand total of 749,997.9 acres. By adding Primary Refuges on State Forests, Auxiliary Refuge Projects (both General Classification and Farm-Game Co-operatives), Special Preserves, State Game Farms, and Game Propagation Areas, the Division totals of land managerial responsibilities were as follows: Division "A," 116,124.2 acres; Division "B," 136,032.3 acres; Division "C," 174,709.8 acres; Division "D," 144,874.0 acres; Division "E," 230,672.5 acres; Division "F," 117,275.1 acres; and Division "G," 120,728.7 acres; or a grand total of 1,038,287.0 acres. (Table 3).

While in the beginning the Commission planned to acquire widely scattered blocks of land containing from 3,000 to 10,000 acres, in many cases the present holdings are much smaller, and in others considerably larger, than the original objective. As will be noted from the attached tabulation (Table 2), there are now 184 separate units of State Game Lands owned by the Commission, of which 6 tracts contain more than 20,000 acres; 9 tracts from 10,000 to 20,000 acres; 34 tracts from 5,000 to 10,000 acres; 80 tracts from 1,000 to 5,000 acres; and 27 tracts from 500 to 1,000 acres; and 28 tracts less than 500 acres. (Map showing the general location of the Commission's' several tracts of State Game Lands is appended).

Attention is called to the fact that three-fourths of the present units are less than 5,000 acres; thirty percent (30%) are under 1,000 acres; and fifteen percent (15%) are under 500 acres. Practically all of these small groups are in farm-game territory where special efforts should be made to enlarge the size of the units. Small widely scattered land holdings increase administrative costs and aid little in relieving hunter pressure.

Current Policy—The Commission at its meeting on July 11, 1940, considered recommendations contained in a special report submitted in April, and agreed to try to confine its purchases to: (a) Lands necessary to straighten out boundary lines; (b) To interior holdings; (c) To lands in agricultural territory (minimum 150 acres in a block) in counties where our present holdings are below the average of other counties. It further agreed that the purchase program for lands should be set at a minimum of 1,000,000 and a maximum of 1,500,000 acres. It was also agreed that land purchases should not be confined to any special section of the State, and that the Commission should acquire lands where it feels they are to the best interest of all concerned, with a policy flexible enough to give way to desirable purchases.

The several other types of lands under the Commission's control are discussed separately below.

| | Current Practices | Immediate Changes Recommended | Future Program Recommendations |
|---|---|---|---|
| **A. ACQUISITION**<br>**1. General Purchases** | The practice in the past has been to buy lands as widely distributed as possible to establish refuges and provide public hunting grounds wherever they could be obtained at justifiable prices. There has been no limitation on the size of any unit.<br><br>Most of the lands bought to date were offered by the owners without solicitation on the part of the Commission. Efforts of the Commission's employes to secure options have been confined primarily to tracts needed to fill in present holdings, including interiors, and in some instances to expand small tracts.<br><br>When offers are received land examinations are made by field employes and reports submitted, the highlights of which are included in the Land Offer Report presented to the Commission for consideration.<br><br>It has been found that by waiting until lands are offered, desirable purchases are usually possible at better prices than if options were solicited. The Commission has not in the past selected areas in which it desired to purchase lands and then attempted to secure options. | The Commission's policy, as adopted July 11, 1940, seems to be sound and no immediate change in the general policy is recommended. (See General Policy statement above).<br><br>It is recommended that an effort be made to secure options for tracts needed at prices not to exceed those suggested below to expand small holdings instead of awaiting offers. | The goal previously set, namely, a minimum of 1,000,000 acres and a maximum of 1,500,000 acres, is feasible and should be retained as the Commission's future land acquisition objective.<br><br>Sentiment throughout the Commonwealth strongly favors more emphasis on the purchase of lands in small game or farming sections, but it is recommended that existing units of less than 1,000 acres, interior holdings, and lands essential to improve outside boundaries, be given first consideration, provided options can be secured at prices the Commission would be justified in paying and under favorable reservations.<br>The Commission's past experience in attempting to purchase lands in farm-game territory has been most unsatisfactory, due to the fact that only small acreages are available, prices are high, and unless a considerable portion of such lands are regularly tilled they soon revert to forest type and fail to serve the purpose intended. Small acreages of such lands accommodate too few hunters and, therefore, do little to relieve the local hunting pressure. Instead of purchasing such lands, it is recommended that the Cooperative Farm-Game Program be expanded in those regions where land values are prohibitive. |
| **2. Maximum Prices** | Originally, the limitation on price was $10.00 per acre. In 1937 it was changed to $30.00, primarily to give the Commission some leeway in the purchase of interior holdings and to acquire strategically located small tracts to fill out suitable purchase units. It was not the intention to use the maximum price as the criterion for purchasing the major portion of any block of lands, regardless of its location.<br><br>The Commission has been operating under an oral agreement that it cannot justify paying more than $15.00 per acre as an average price for any given block of State Game Lands, as it is considered economically unsound to pay higher prices for lands to be used primarily as refuges and public hunting grounds. | It is recommended that the Commission now adopt as a fixed policy, as a guide for members of the staff in rejecting offers but not to be announced publicly, an agreement that it will not pay an average of more than $10.00 per acre for any block of lands in strictly forest territory, and not to exceed a $15.00 per acre average in agricultural territory.<br><br>In adopting such a policy it should be understood and agreed this limitation shall not apply to tracts of 100 acres or less which are deemed essential for the Commission's use and to protect the public interest. | See previous column. |
| **B. TITLE WORK** | In the beginning all title work was handled by the Potter Title and Trust Company of Pittsburgh. In recent years, this work has been handled by the Commission's own employes. Titles are subject to final approval by the Department of Justice. | None. | Continue as at present, but expedite wherever possible. |
| **C. SURVEYS AND MAPPING** | All survey and mapping work is done by the Commission's own employes, either on a full-time or a temporary basis. | None. | Continue as at present, but emphasize the importance of marking all boundaries thoroughly at the time of surveys. |

EDITOR'S NOTE: Last month we published a complete report on State Game Land Recommendations based upon suggestions submitted to the Commission by its employes and others interested. This long-term program was approved by the Commission January 11, 1945. Following is the Land Acquisition Program, approved May 2, 1945. Similar reports on other major operations will be published in each succeeding issue.

## (B) LEASED LANDS
## (Hunting and Trapping Rights Only)

**GENERAL POLICY**

The Game Commission's land leasing program for refuges and public hunting grounds has been in operation since 1915. Even after the land purchase program was inaugurated it was found that in many cases private lands, which it could not purchase, might be used to good advantage under lease in the Commission's Game Management Program. As the Land Purchase Program was expanded the need for leasing lands, except in agricultural regions, became less pressing.

It was found that in many cases landowners offered their property as Auxiliary Refuge Projects in the hope that the entire area would be closed to hunting, which, under the Commission's policy, was not acceptable. Efforts to acquire Auxiliary Refuge Projects were, therefore, minimized and that phase of the program was not further expanded until the Cooperative Farm-Game Plan was developed in 1936.

In addition to the Cooperative Farm-Game Program, tracts are leased for Archery Hunting Preserves, Dog Training Preserves, and Game Propagation Areas.

The total acreage of lands under the Commission's control, used for these several purposes, is indicated on the table attached.

| | Current Practices | Immediate Changes Recommended | Future Program Recommendations |
|---|---|---|---|
| **A. AUXILIARY REFUGE PROJECTS** | The current practices are to lease the hunting rights on areas only where they will serve a useful public purpose, and where the owners agree that a minimum of two-thirds shall remain open to public hunting. This program is not being pushed as it was in former years. (Many of the Commission's employes question the necessity for continuing it). | Since this program is gradually eliminating itself as agreements expire, no immediate changes are recommended. Unless such projects are serving a useful public purpose, leases are not being renewed. | None. |
| **B. COOPERATIVE FARM-GAME PROJECTS** | This program is now applicable to 27 counties, 14 in Southeastern Pennsylvania and 13 in Western Pennsylvania. Originally the minimum acreage required was 300; now it is 2,000 acres with a permissible maximum of 10,000 or more.<br><br>The practice has been to locate these projects in good agricultural areas near centers of population, and where a large percentage of the lands are posted, to bring the benefits of the Commission's refuge and public hunting grounds program into territory where State Game Lands can not be acquired at justifiable prices. Not to exceed one-third of any project may be used for refuges and safety zones. At present one acre is closed to four open to hunting. | Some difficulty in securing leases for hunting rights has been reported because in the past it has been the practice to require both the husband and wife to sign. Unless the Commission objects, it is proposed in the future to require the signature of the husband only (unless the wife is the sole owner), because the nature of the agreements does not seem to demand both signatures. | It is recommended that the Cooperative Farm-Game Program be made available to the entire Commonwealth, with the restriction that such projects shall be established only in good general crop farming territory in close proximity to heavily populated areas where a considerable portion of the lands are regularly posted against hunting.<br><br>It is further recommended as a future program that the acreage maintained for these projects be increased in such amount as can be managed wisely with available funds and manpower, and that the ultimate goal be set at approximately one million (1,000,000) acres.<br><br>In many instances landowners have refused to join in the development of a Cooperative Farm-Game Project because, under the present policy, the hunting and trapping privileges must be leased to the Commonwealth. This is particularly true on lands where the owners desire to restrict muskrat trapping to members of their own family, or where such trapping rights can be leased to an advantage. Since the primary purpose of the program is to assure public hunting grounds, it is recommended that at the next session of the Legislature this phase of the law be changed to eliminate trapping rights and confine future leases to hunting rights. The above recommendations are predicated on the demand for more open hunting grounds for farm-game species, and the further fact that such properly developed projects will provide accommodation for more hunters per thousand acres than a similar acreage in the forest regions. (See Game Land Management Recommendations for further information concerning this program). |
| **C. STATE GAME PROPAGATION AREAS** | State Game Propagation Areas were authorized by the 1937 Legislature primarily to provide protected areas from which rabbits and other animals could be trapped and transferred annually. They are created on private lands where regular refuge units surrounded by public hunting grounds would not be feasible.<br><br>In the beginning some of the areas were not wisely selected and many of them which failed to produce have been eliminated. More care is now taken in the selection of new ones. | Game Technicians should be held responsible for passing upon each project, and no project established unless it fully meets the requirements. | It is recommended that this program be carefully expanded and all projects properly developed, and that they be established only where they serve the Commission's purpose. Purchasing such small areas for rabbit propagation is not recommended, as portions of available State Game Lands in most counties can be developed to serve the purpose. Where this is not true, desirable private lands can usually be leased. |

**On the back cover this month you will find an up-to-date map showing the distribution of unit blocks of state game lands. Sometime between now and November 1 we plan to publish a table showing the location and acreage of the lands and the towns from which they are accessible.**

# HIGHLIGHTS OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

ON June 5 and 6 Seth Gordon, Executive Director of the Commission, attended a special committee meeting of the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners in Chicago, Illinois. This conference was held for the purpose of discussing problems concerning the various stages.

One of them concerned the issuance of free hunting and fishing privileges to those in the armed services. Many of the States now issue free licenses to men and women who are in the military services, but sentiment among those present was unanimously opposed to the issuance of permanent free licenses. However, it was agreed that this is a problem for the individual States, and a resolution was adopted recommending against the issuance of free licenses permanently to any groups of individuals, including discharged service people.

The general problems confronting the various States where flood control projects have been constructed by the Federal Government were discussed. It was brought out that in a number of cases the Army Engineers managing such projects have planned to set up their own rules and regulations governing hunting and fishing, including fees for the enjoyment of such privileges. Those present unanimously agreed that a determined effort must be made to see to it that the rights of the States are not infringed.

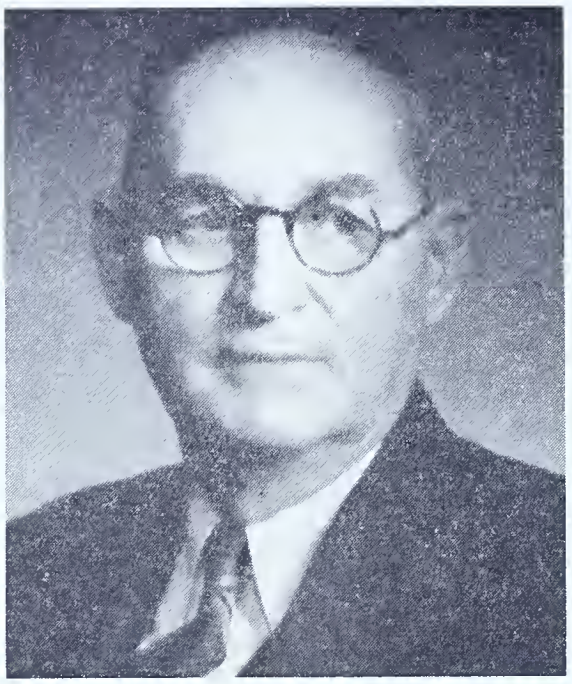
A general discussion on the post-war aims and objectives indicated that most of the States have done a fairly good job of future planning, in spite of the lack of adequate personnel to develop these plans.

The Missouri Valley Authority Bill (S.555), which was recently reported adversely by the Commerce Committee of the United States Senate, was also discussed. This bill still faces consideration by the Committee on Irrigation and Reclamation and the Agriculture and Forestry Committee.

The Commerce Committee declared that opponents of the bill are jealous of their sovereignty and of their rights (particularly water rights) under State law and that they foresee encroachment of these rights if the Missouri Valley Authority is created. It says these opponents believe existing Federal agencies will assure proper emphasis on the primary needs of flood control and irrigation under development plans already authorized by Congress for the area, and that it is impracticable to have regular Federal agencies and a valley authority operating in the same territory.

It further points out that under S.555, the Missouri Valley Authority would be able to control practically all aspects of economic and social life in the Missouri valley without local interests having proper recourse to Congress, and that if the Congress desires to enter these questionable fields of activity such functions can best be accomplished by the established Federal agencies under the full control of Congress.

The report probably spells the death-knell to Valley Authorities for some time to come except, perhaps, where the watershed lies wholly within the borders of a single state.



E. LEE LeCOMPTE

**Conservation is losing a staunch and valuable ally through the retirement of State Game Warden E. Lee LeCompte, of Maryland. He resigned August 31, having served as head of the game department since 1916. Last Fall, at the age of 70, he tried to retire but Governor O'Conor persuaded him to stay on the job.**

**Mr. LeCompte has done much to promote conservation in his home State, and has been a firm advocate of conservation education. He deserves a lot of credit for his splendid record of long and efficient service. While we dislike seeing this ardent conservationist retire from active service, we realize he has earned the right to enjoy some hunting and fishing of his own.**

Training programs are being planned by a number of States which heretofore have not undertaken such work, some of them in cooperation with educational institutions where returned servicemen will take advantage of the provisions in the G. I. Bill to obtain additional college training.

The Forest Service is threatening to take over the management of wildlife on certain National forests because it is claimed the States are not reducing surplus game populations fast enough.

According to the best information available, about 35% of the normal supply of shotgun shells will be distributed before the hunting season. While additional materials may be released to manufacturers, it was feared that greater quantities could not be produced and distributed in advance of the hunting seasons in the northern States, due largely to the time required to get ammunition from the manufacturers to the retailers.

The subject of uniform cold storage regulations was discussed from all angles, and it was found that in a number of States regulations fixing time limits for the retention of legally killed game have been greatly relaxed or removed entirely. The discussion also covered the private freezer units, which will soon be in general use.

The accumulated balance in the Pittman-Robertson Fund is now from $10,600,000 to $11,000,000. It was agreed that this accumulated money could be used to the best advantage if made available (in addition to the normal income) during a minimum period of five years and a maximum of seven years, following the conclusion of the war.

Sentiment among the group favored revision of the law to give small States a minimum amount annually so that they can set up suitable programs; also that the law be amended to permit the use of about 25% of the sum annually available to each State for the maintenance of projects established with Pittman-Robertson Funds, and that the suggested revision be submitted to the several States for study.

Migratory bird seasons were discussed, and bird populations in various states were reported.

The steps being taken by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in connection with studies covering the effect of proposed impoundments on fish and wildlife were fully discussed. Under recent plans of operation the Service is now being requested to study such effects on every proposed major impoundment to be made with Federal funds. After the Service completes the studies the States will be asked, through their Governors, for like reports from their conservation agencies. Both State and Federal reports will be submitted to Congress before final authorization to proceed is granted.

While damage complaints from wildlife are always greatly exaggerated where game is involved, serious crop damage has actually been occurring in various parts of the country. Feeding programs to be conducted as the answer to such crop damage were discussed.

The post-war plans of the various States were taken into consideration and the efforts of the Fish and Wildlife Service to help develop a large nation-wide restoration program for the post-war period were reviewed.

Under the present duck stamp law Federal waterfowl areas established with Federal funds must all be closed to hunting. Many of the States are complaining that the Fish and Wildlife Service under this program has taken over practically all of their best shooting grounds. Since the Federal refuge program is pretty well completed it is obvious that considerable portions of the areas established by the Fish and Wildlife Service can be open to public hunting without danger to the waterfowl supply.

**RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, When the war is won and the fighting men and women return to civilian life there will be a great increase in the demand for hunting and fishing—after World War I there was an immediate increase of 30% and many people feel that the increase after this war may be as much as 50%—and

WHEREAS, There is growing concern among conservationists about where future sportsmen will find places to hunt and fish in view of the growing tendency in many sections to post privately owned lands aginst trespass, and

WHEREAS, In the post-war period there probably will be increased construction of public water impoundments for flood control, navigation, irrigation and hydro-electric power, and

WHEREAS, Public impoundments can be made to yield additional public benefits in hunting and fishing if properly planned and administered, thus aiding materially in supplying the growing demand for this type of recreation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the

*(Continued on Page 32)*

"Here comes a note from one of your boys. I know that it is a little late, but better late than never.

"We have been fairly busy since we left France. First we went to Hemer, Germany and there cleaned up a concentration camp of about 23,000 persons. Most of these were Russians. Boy what a job and what a mess. I'm sure that none of us will ever forget that first sight. We had heard plenty about them but you have to see one to believe the things you hear about them. At least that was the way with most of us.

"From Hemer we moved into Branan, Austria. It was there we took care of our first American boys. They were only there about four days and then started on their journey back to the States. They were mostly all Air Corps fellows who had been captured—some as long as three years. They were in the best shape of any prisoners we have seen. None of them were made to work like the other prisoners that we have taken care of. After the Americans we got about 400 Russians, Poles, etc., into our hospital.

"From there we moved to Gnunden, Austria. Here we helped another bunch run a hospital in another concentration camp. This camp was made up of all political prisoners. Here I saw my first cremetory. There were bodies there which the Germans didn't have time to cremate.

"From here we moved back into Germany to a place called Hohenfels where we ran a hospital in a camp of Polish people. We had a pretty good setup there, as all we did was supervise. It was too good to last and we were only there for about one week. Then we moved to our present place.

"Not all of the things I've seen have been horrible and not all of my time has been spent working. I've had some good times too. While in France I was fortunate enough to spend a couple of days in Paris. Not the Paris that used to be but nevertheless quite a gay place. We surely did have a great time. We visited all the places of interest and believe me there are a lot of them.

"I've also seen quite a few interesting and pretty places in Austria and Germany. I have taken quite a few rolls of film. I am sorry I haven't been able to get a hold of some Kodachrome because some of the pictures would have been very beautiful in color.

"I've seen quite a bit of game since coming over here. Pheasants, quail, Hungarians, squirrels, rabbits, hares and deer. When I was in Gnunden a fellow wanted to take me hunting for mountain goats, but I couldn't get away. He guaranteed me a shot in two days. I sure would have liked to take him up on his offer. While at Gnunden I did get to do some trout fishing though and that helped a lot.

"Must stop for now. Write if you can find time."—Pfc. J. P. Eicholtz, 33930964, 515th Clr. Co., APO, 403, c/o Postmaster, New York.

---

"Have been receiving the GAME NEWS regularly. My address has been changed to APO No. 228 from APO 350.

"I have traveled along the Rhine River from Cologne to Mainz. It's a beautiful drive. Drove to Brussels one day and came back the next. Looks like we will soon leave Germany and go to Belgium.

"I have seen a few deer and have killed one of the large rabbits here. The forests are very well managed. Clear cutting is done and then replanted.

"Don't look as if I'll get home in 1945. I have 61 points and may get one more battle participation star. Have three now. Covered quite an area from Omaha Beach to here. Anxious to get back to Pennsylvania."—Cpl. Louis B. Mostoller, 33563637, 855th Ord. H.A.M. Co., APO 228, c/o P. M. New York.

---

## TIME OUT—By Chet Smith

Courtesy Publishers Syndicate

"He says he's the champion skeet shooter of Elk County, Pennsylvania—and he's flown down here to offer his services!"

"While awaiting transportation from here to a depot in Italy, I strolled into the Red Cross and to my surprise the first magazine I saw in the hands of the fellows in the library was the PENNSYLVANIA GAME NEWS. I almost fell over!

"I sure sweated out a copy, as fellows from many other states went for it.

"Later I was there just as the doors opened and was surprised to see that the PENNSYLVANIA GAME NEWS was more popular than the more common magazines in an Army camp. I saw ten copies of your magazine on the table among many more other types of magazines and I can say that inside of five minutes or less the GAME NEWS were all in the hands of the fellows and the rest of the magazines were left untouched.

"I saw as many as seven men grouped around the table with one copy of the GAME NEWS between them. I can also say that four states were represented and a big discussion on hunting started with minor arguments coming up on which state had the best hunting. I am very glad to say that most agreed that Pennsylvania was 'way ahead of most other states on game programs.

"Plenty of fellows I met who had never enjoyed the sport of small and big game hunting said that was going to be their biggest thing to look forward to, and many are going to return in time for this coming season.

"I am awaiting transportation myself to return to the U. S. and hope to be a civilian by hunting season.

"All the boys I met from Pennsylvania who are sportsmen said they sure are glad we have a group at the head of our Game Commission who know the score, and they haven't any worries that our sport will die out in years to come.

"I will renew my subscription to the PENNSYLVANIA GAME NEWS, which expired in April, as soon as I return to the U. S.

"Thought you might be interested in knowing what a hit your magazine is with the boys of all states."—Cpl./T Jerris Hawk, Co. "B", 185th Engr. (C) Bn., APO 464, New York, New York.

---

The other day Lt. Nicholas Ruha dropped in for a brief visit. Nick has been doing a swell job of bombardiering and is now awaiting reassignment or discharge—he doesn't know which. He's done his bit and has his points so we hope he is soon back with the outfit.

# SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO ANALYZE GAME AND FISH WORK

**The Pennsylvania Game Commission heartily welcomes a thorough study of its work by the Special Committee recently appointed by Honorable Ira T. Fiss, Chairman of the Joint State Government Commission, in accordance with a resolution adopted by the General Assembly.**

**We are confident this analysis of the game and fish work of the Commonwealth will be very helpful to all concerned. We hope the Committee will take time to study in detail our plans and programs for maintaining a supply of wildlife in Pennsylvania, as well as all other phases of our activities, including the possibility of further improving and streamlining the laws under which we function.**

**It will be a pleasure to lay before the Committee all the information that we have and to discuss fully with the members the objectives, long-range programs, and operating policies of the Game Commission. We trust that all the sportsmen's organizations and other conservation groups will also cooperate wholeheartedly with the Committee.**

**ROSS L. LEFFLER, President**
**Pennsylvania Game Commission**

**HON. GEORGE A. GOODLING**
**Chairman**

## THE COMMITTEE

Other members include Representatives Robert M. Barton, Duncannon; W. Henry Elder, Jersey Shore; Amos M. Leisey, Brandamore; Frank J. Pentrack, Johnstown; and Clyde H. Turbett, Mexico; and Senators Paul M. Crider, Chambersburg; Wallace S. Gourley, Canonsburg; Cyrus B. Tyler, Meshoppen; and Carleton T. Woodring, Easton.

We did not have an opportunity to contact each one of them prior to going to press with this issue, but we hope to secure and publish a group picture of the entire Committee in a future issue.

**HON. MONTGOMERY F. CROWE**
**Vice-Chairman**

# SOIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION ESTABLISHED

Pennsylvania's new soil conservation commission, established under Act No. 217 of the 1945 General Assembly, held its organization meeting in Harrisburg on June 29 to plan a program to conserve farm resources.

Act 217 provides for the voluntary establishment of county-wide soil conservation districts in any county where the Board of County Commissioners passes a resolution to set up such a district. It repeals the Soil Conservation Act of 1937, but provides for continuation of the six soil conservation districts that were established under the earlier law. The 1937 Act provided that final decision on establishment of a soil conservation district rested with the State Soil Conservation Board, determined on hearings and elections conducted for landowners in proposed districts.

The new act carries no compulsory measures whatever, and is the result of conferences and study of soil conservation matters by farmers and conservation leaders over the past six years. Farmers generally have misunderstood the 1937 Act, leaders delaring it too cumbersome and not workable.

The 1945 Act is entirely voluntary and simplifies the setting up and operation of county districts, it is pointed out. It provides for a State Soil Conservation Commission consisting of the Secretary of Agriulture as chairman, the Secretary of Forests and Waters, the dean of the School of Agriculture at the Pennsylvania State College, and three farm members selected by the Governor from a list of six nominees chosen by the Pennsylvania State Council of Farm Organizations, a group composed of delegates from each of more than 30 state-wide agricultural associations.

After a Board of County Commissioners goes on record as establishing a soil conservation district for the county, the State Commission provides a list of county-wide farm organizations in that county that are eligible to send delegates to a meeting called by the Commissioners for the purpose of naming at least eight farmers from whom the county commissioners shall select four. These four farmers, together with one member of the Board of County Commissioners, shall make up the County Soil Conservation District Board which shall elect its own chairman.

The new act aims toward conservation o the soil and water resources by control an prevention of soil erosion. Duties assigne the State Commission include approval o plans by county districts, the apportionmen among the several districts of any funds al lotted from State or Federal sources, an responsibility for expenditures by district The Commission is directed to secure th cooperation and assistance of any govern mental agency, and is the agency throug which governmental aid in erosion contr can be extended to private lands.

Chief among 12 duties and powers assigne County Soil Conservation Boards is respons ibility to carry out preventive and contr measures within the County District throug cooperation with landowners on a voluntar basis.

Soil Conservation Districts establishe under the Act of 1937 are located in parts o York, Lancaster, Franklin, Northumberlan and Indiana counties, and all of Clario county. Each will continue operation unt such time as a county district is set u under the new act on a county-wide basis.

*(Continued on page 32)*

## Senator White Made Chairman of Senate Wildlife Committee

The Senate Wildlife Committee met recently for the purpose of selecting a chairman to succeed former Senator Clark of Missouri. Under the rule of seniority Senator Josiah W. Bailey of North Carolina would have been selected. Senator Bailey called the meeting and stated that this committee was non-political, that it was the committee of the sportsmen of America, that in its 15 years' service to the wildlife of the nation it had selected its chairman without regard to political affiliation and he therefore suggested that Senator Wallace H. White, Jr., of Maine be made chairman at this time.

Senator White, following his election, stated that he was deeply interested in the wildlife programs and would want to start soon on some plans of conservation requiring legislative action.

Senator White is the author of an anti-pollution bill now pending in the Senate. He is a real sportsman, a true conservationist and a leader in this field. When in the lower House of Congress he was chairman of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee. He is now the minority leader in the Senate.

## Distinguishing Fox Pups From Young of Wolves and Coyotes

To aid Missouri game officials and farmers to distinguish fox pups from young coyotes and wolves, the Conservation Commission has issued a bulletin quoting Frank W. Sampson of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

According to the bulletin, the eye pupils of both red and gray foxes are eliptical or slanted, like those of a cat's eyes, while the pupils of wolves' and coyotes' eyes are round, like those of a dog. The characteristics are said to hold true for all ages.

## IN MEMORIUM

ELMER B. THOMPSON

**It is with deepest regret that we announce the death on July 21 of Game Protector Elmer B. Thompson of Johnstown. Mr. Thompson underwent a major operation about a year ago, and although he returned to work later, he never regained his normal health.**

**Mr. Thompson began his service with the Commission in 1923 and left a splendid record of efficiency and loyalty. He made many contributions to the conservation cause beyond the call of duty and was highly respected by his brother officers and sportsmen friends.**

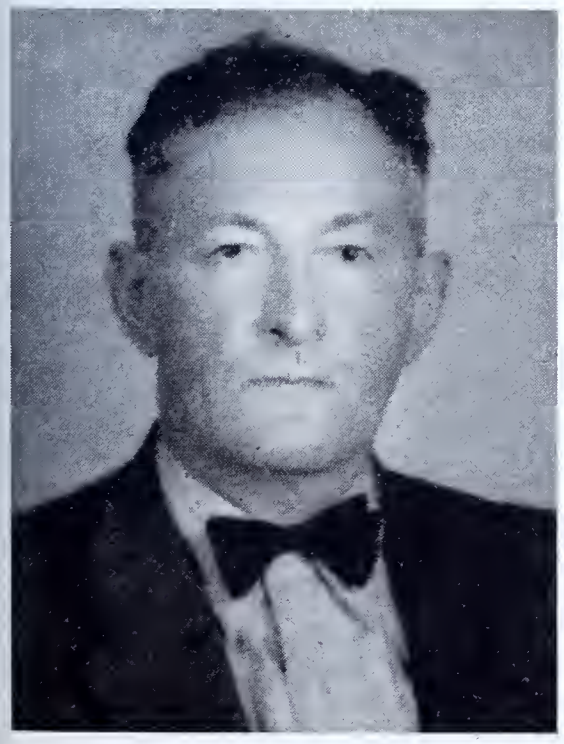
**He was a veteran of World War 1, having served with the 156th Pioneer Infantry in France.**

## State Conservation Committee

The Pennsylvania Post-War Planning Commission met recently and established the new State Conservation Committee provided for by the 1945 General Assembly. This is a special committee of the Joint State Government Commission and its job will be to coordinate an aggressive State policy for the conservation of the major natural resources including land, water, forest, minerals, coal, oil, fish and game, which are divided among several departments of the State government with considerable overlapping and perhaps some harmful interdepartmental competition. Administrative responsibilities of these State departments will not be affected by the creation of the new Committee since the Committee will be advisory to the Governor and the State agencies concerned.

The Conservation Committee consists of four members of the Post-War Planning Commission and three members of the State Planning Board. Henry W. Prentis, Jr., Chairman of the Post-War Planning Commission, announced that Dr. Stephen W. Fletcher, Dean of the School of Agriculture of Pennsylvania State College, will serve as Chairman of the Conservation Committee, and that the other representatives of the Post-War Planning Commission will be Mrs. Hannah M. Durham of Allentown, Colonel Richard K. Mellon of Ligonier, and Thomas Kennedy of Hazleton. Floyd Chalfant, Chairman of the State Planning Board on the Conservation Committee announced that representatives of the State Planning Board on the Conservation Committee will be George W. Reily of Harrisburg, Dr. Alfred H. Williams of Philadelphia and Colonel J. Hale Steinman of Lancaster.

Francis A. Pitkin, Executive Director of the State Planning Board, will serve as Executive Secretary of the Conservation Committee and will direct the research and planning program of the Committee, using technical assistance drawn largely from the staff of the State Planning Board.



←

RAYMOND E. KAUFFMAN

**Our best wishes go to Game Protector Raymond E. Kauffman of Mattawana, who retired from active duty on July 23 after having completed over 25 years of loyal and faithful service.**

**Mr. Kauffman joined the field staff back in November 1919 in the capacity of a Game Refuge Keeper and conscientiously and efficiently performed the duties of that position ever since.**

**Although we dislike losing his services we know we can count on his continued unofficial cooperation.**

→

E. G. MUSSER

**We welcome Mr. E. G. Musser, of Sunbury, as a new member of the organization. His job will be to aid farm-game cooperators and other landowners establish practices which will benefit agriculture as well as wildlife.**

**Mr. Musser has been in soil conservation work for the past 8 years. He is a graduate of Salem College, West Virginia University, and The Pennsylvania State College, where he majored in Wildlife Management.**

Photo by W R. Drake.
"What's going on down there?" wonders this curious raccoon youngster as he looks inquiringly at the photographer's assistant.

# NOTES FROM THE FIELD

"I have checked many more crow hunters in the field this spring that I did last. Many of them have gone in for crow hunting in earnest. They have obtained stuffed or artificial owls, crow calls, live callers, etc. One hunter had a complete camouflage outfit consisting of green coveralls, green hat, etc. He said he was going to get a green net to cover his face and wear colored gloves so the crows would not spot his hands.

"The effect of the crow hunting is quite evident in this section for they are definitely on the decrease."—Game Protector Elmer D. Simpson, Cambridge Springs, June, 1945.

---

"There seem to be quite a number of young black and gray squirrels through this section, especially in the farming areas. I talked to some of the men who work on the gas lease in Cook Forest. They told me they had seen five turkeys in the Toms Run section of the forest. Some of these birds have been seen along Toby Creek. There was a good crop of beechnuts in the Toms Run section last fall. That is about all the birds have to eat in this area."—Game Protector Edward Shaw, Leeper, June, 1945.

---

"We have an unusual number of Canadian geese nesting in the Pymatuning area this year. Some young ducks already are hard to distinguish from the adults, and adult ducks are starting to go into the eclipse stage of molting.

"The weather here has been very unfavorable for planting or cultivating, yet I have seen many more young rabbits this month than any other month in the spring. Ringnecks, too, have done exceptionally fine in the refuge area this year and many broods of young have been observed. Some are already as large as grouse adults, proving that nesting must have started much earlier than usual."—Game Protector Raymond M. Sickles, Linesville, June, 1945.

---

"Saw first fawn deer on June 1 along the CCC road from Beech Creek to Route 144.

"The first young grouse were seen on June 7 in the vicinity of Refuge 501A.

"Have had reports of grouse hatching large numbers of young and being seen along the roads with them. At State Game Lands No. 92 on the 28th, I saw an old grouse with ten young that were nearly as big as the old bird."—Game Protector Joseph W. Kistner, Howard, June, 1945.

---

"The crow repellant used on the corn planted in Demonstration Plot No. 2, on State Game Lands No. 127, didn't prevent the crows from pulling the corn. I placed a scarecrow in the center of the plot on June 14 and started replanting corn on June 15.

"On the morning of June 18, I saw a black bear crossing the road between Thornhurst and Route No. 115. It was apparently in good condition, and would weigh approximately 300 pounds.

"On June 19, I saw a grouse with a brood of 10 chicks, able to fly, on the east side of Bradys Lake on State Game Lands No. 127."—Game Protector H. D. Carroll, Thornhurst, June, 1945.

---

"June 28, 1945 while patrolling on State Game Lands No. 30 I observed two different coveys of grouse. One covey had eight birds, the other nine. The young birds were about the size of an adult robin and could take care of themselves very nicely.

"I got after a bunch of great horned owls on the Game Lands in the near vicinity of these grouse. I followed these owls around for quite some time and after a considerable amount of shooting with a pistol I did manage to kill one of them."—Game Protector Claude B. Kelsey, Port Allegany, June, 1945.

---

"I have observed several coveys of grouse. However, they seem to be small in number, ranging from four to nine birds per covey.

"I've received several reports of bears being seen in District E-10. One gas worker reports seing an old bear with four cubs."—Game Protector Edward R. Richards, Portland Mills, June, 1945.

---

On July 4, while hunting groundhogs in a clover field near Manada Hill, Harold Rudy of Steelton came upon a female woodchuck with her whole head in a 13 oz. milk can. He promptly shot the animal with his 16 gauge shotgun.

Upon removing the can from the groundhog's head, he found that she was blind, had no ears, and had obviously found her way around by smell alone. In order to eat she had chewed out the side of the can.

Her head had grown long and narrow, the size of the can, and was only about half as big around as it should have been. All around her shoulders were big cuts which were festered.

In other ways she was in good health. She weighed about 9 pounds, and it was evident that she had had a litter of pups this year.

---

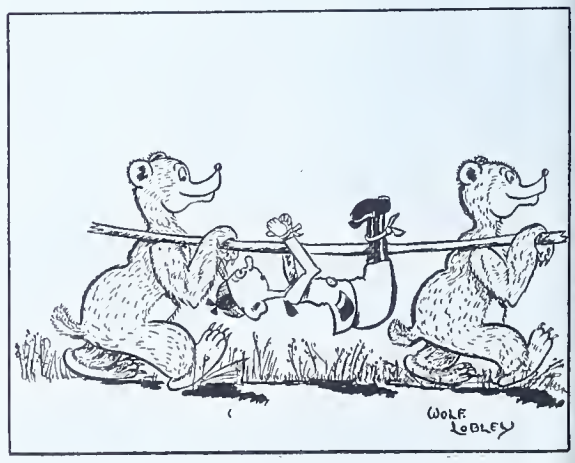
While shooting crows recently Supervisor M. J. Golden of West Reading, Division "A", reported seeing a groundhog approximately 25 feet up in a small sapling. The diameter of the tree was no greater than 8 inches at the base and the tree grew straight upwards. It started branching about 8 feet from the ground and Mr. Golden cannot understand how the 'chuck was able to make that vertical ascent before reaching the first limb.

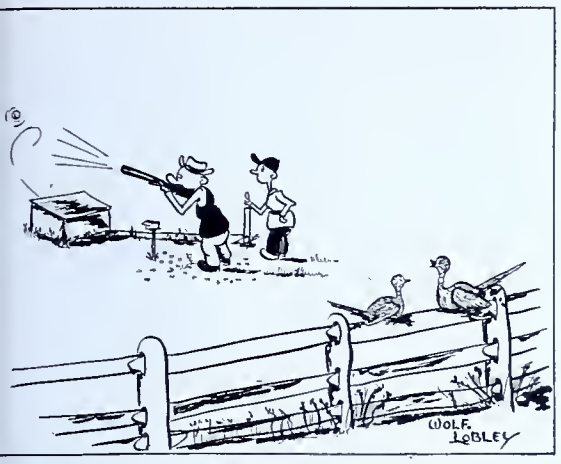
---

"There will be no nuts of any kind in this section this year, and the squirrels will have a hard time to exist."—Game Protector D. H. Franklin, Upper Strasburg, June, 1945.

---

"I've seen quite a large number of small game animals this month and believe this game season will be very good. I'm also getting quite a lot of reports of small fawn deer being seen this summer."—Game Protector William G. Matthews, Rector, June, 1945.






"I'm moving over to Mr. Brown's farm—that's his 23rd straight miss."

"Reports coming in seem to denote an upward trend of the grouse population in this area. Several reports of coveys from 6 to 10 half-grown birds have been turned in to the Sportsmen's Club. Probably a lot of these birds will reach the hunting season, but some are sure to disappear by that time. I saw the place where something had killed a grouse and had eaten everything except the feathers.

"While patrolling for spotlight hunters, Deputy Game Protector Wilcox and Special Fish Warden Geer saw four foxes cross the road in front of the car. This was in an area that had been heavily trapped last hunting season."—Game Protector George H. Burdick, Tidioute, June, 1945.

---

"Some day a new historian will arise who will revolutionize our study of the past and give us a much better understanding of the problems which we ourselves are meeting. This new history will give us an interpretation of the causes which produced the events, rather than a compilation of dynasties, dates and victorious generals. Instead of telling us in detail HOW Ghenghis Kahn and Alexander the Great fought their battles, the new historian will tell us WHY they fought their wars of conquest."

—"Ding" Darling

---

Amiel gave us this never to be forgotten bit of philosophy: "He who is silent is forgotten; he who abstains is taken at his word; he who does not advance falls back; he who stops is overwhelmed, distanced, crushed; he who ceases to grow greater becomes smaller; he who leaves off gives up; the stationary condition is the beginning of the end."—*Colorado Conservation Comments.*

---

Sometime during the middle of June, Pete Hoffman, a rehabilitation worker, observed an unusual act of motherly devotion. While coming down the highway between St. Marys and Ridgway he saw four groundhogs. As he drew closer to the animals he noticed one had been hit by a car and was lying dead on the road. All the other groundhogs were assembled around it. The unusual conduct aroused Mr. Hoffman's curiosity and after passing some distance he stopped his car and hid in the brush to observe what would happen. Soon the larger animal, apparently the mother groundhog, accompanied by her other offspring, came out of the brush in the vicinity and proceeded to remove the dead youngster from the highway.

"Have seen three coveys of grouse with the following numbers of young: one, three and five. This is not a good outlook. I also saw a flock of rinknecks with 12 birds."—Game Protector Lewis H. Estep, Berwick, June, 1945.

"I am well pleased with the coveys of grouse I have seen recently. There are many more birds in each covey than I expected to find. Some of our sportsmen report seeing at least 10 birds in a covey."—Game Protector Cecil D. Hancock, Port Allegany, June, 1945.

---

"Reports of deer in the open are not so plentiful. They will be out soon with their fawns.

"I have two acres of corn planted, with big hopes for a crop, but the briars are very bad because the grass has been growing so long.

"Young rabbits seem to be everywhere."—Game Protector Ralph H. Ewing, Polk, June, 1945.

---

"Reports are coming in from several sections of Centre and Clearfield counties about dogs chasing deer. Summer chasing is unusual, but it seems that the sections are filled with unlicensed and uncared for dogs. It is almost impossible to catch these dogs in the act of chasing deer because of the heavy foliage which hides them, and the fact that most of the chasing is done at night.

"It has been reported to me that persons have called the local dog law enforcement officer and complained about dogs overrunning their sections only to receive the reply that unless the dogs had done them some personal damage he was not interested.

"I think that if these dogs could be nailed down and kept where they belong it would give our wildlife a bigger boost than anything we could do."—Game Protector Elmer L. Pilling, Philipsburg, June, 1945.

---

A new shrub known as "pheasant berry" has been introduced from Europe which is more of a hardy vine and produces heavy crops of red berries of which pheasants are very fond. This remarkable plant grows on moist ground, poor dry ground, in shallow water, in fact it will grow in any kind of soil. It can be planted any time from early spring to late fall.

---

"On November 30, 1943, while hunting in Abbott Township, Potter county, with John A. Smith, of Johnstown, we noticed a buck deer with a cow bell around its neck hanging in front of the Hayes Hunting Lodge.

"Upon close examination we noted the bell was fastened on the deer's neck by two automobile cross chains wired together. Apparently the animal was quite young when this was done because the chain had penetrated the back of the neck at least two or three inches, and the sides of the neck about the width of the chains. The neck was a running sore where the chains had penetrated, and the animal was thin and in poor condition. On its right ear we found an aluminum tag bearing the name of W. Burrows No. 93.

"While we were examining this deer, Mr. Berkenheiser, of Pittsburgh came out of the lodge and told us that he was the man who shot it. He was sitting on a log directly back of the camp, he explained, when he heard a cow bell in the distance. The sound of the bell came closer, but he paid no attention, thinking it was a cow. When he heard the bell directly behind him he turned and, to his amazement, there stood a deer. Startled by his sudden movement, it started to run. The bell started to ring. Berkenheiser raised his gun, aimed, fired. The bell stopped ringing. Berkenheiser thought he shot some farmer's cow.

"I hope the person who put that chain around the deer's neck will read this and realize how much he caused the poor animal to suffer before Mr. Berkenheiser put it out of its misery."—Arthur E. Beal, Chief of Police, New Florence, Pa.

Photo by Lindsay M. Griffin.

**An orphaned baby Cedar Waxwing, one of two which fell from a nest, gets acquainted with Photographer Drake and the Leica camera which later took some fine color pictures of the feathered youngster.**

**DRUMMER THE GROUSE shows you some of the best rat and mouse-catchers in the State—**

Top left, Barn Owl; bottom, Long-eared Owl; top right, Barred Owl; bottom, Screech Owl. All owls are protected in Pennsylvania except the Great Horned and Snowy Owls.

# News From The Clubs

## IWLA CHAPTER GETS CHARTER

At a meeting of the John Harris Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America held in Harrisburg on Wednesday, June 27, a charter from the National Headquarters of the League was presented to the local group by Mr. Ross L. Leffler, President of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, and (founder) President of the first chapter of the League in Pennsylvania.

In presenting the charter Mr. Leffler pointed out the National character of the League and its adaptability to further conservation work of national, state and local importance. It is his belief that an educational program can solve the polution problem, which is one of the biggest tasks of conservationists in all sections of the country. Selfishness, said Mr. Leffler, has caused many organizations which should have been dedicated to broad conservative programs to fail. Many of these groups have been concerned with the supply of game and fish for hunters and fishermen to the point where real conservation issues and practices have been ignored. In Pennsylvania, Mr. Leffler pointed out, the economic losses to the State are the primary concern of conservationists. The supply of game and fish are secondary. Although Pennsylvania has been great in war because of the training in the outdoors of the average serviceman, a greater outdoors must be perpetuated for the youth of America. How well we plan for our youth means how well we will plan for our future. In turning over the charter to the local chapter, Mr. Leffler charged the John Harris Chapter with the responsibility of carrying out the policies and ideals for which the charter stands.

Mr. Howard Shilling, President of the State Division of the League, welcomed the new chapter into membership in the State organization. The League, explained Mr. Shilling, has a program of conservation of which the chapter need not be ashamed. The State Division has an education program in conservation as its number one project. Stream pollution has long been a vital problem and one of prime concern to the league, he said. Non-political administration of departments and agencies responsible for conservation work is also an important Division project. Shilling explained that those who seek to exploit our resources are strong and often well-organized. Therefore, conservationists must present a strong front to oppose those who seek to exploit our resources for personal gain.

Guests from other chapters in the State and the Division of the Pennsylvania League included Messrs. McConnell, Swanger, Border, Logan, and Condo.

The new Chapter elected the following officers and directors for a term ending in January, 1946. President, Russell W. Melton; Secretary, Clarence F. Glessner; Treasurer, Herbert C. Lauver; First Vice President, Edwin M. Wagner; Second Vice President, Chalfant Ratcliff; Members of the Board of Directors; William Bennett, Paul D. Bodwell, Dr. Paul W. Eves, Richard Rauch, William E. Seel, W. F. Laskowski, and Arthur L. Jerome.

During the business meeting telegrams of congratulations and welcome from the Oil City Chapter and a new Chapter at Franklin were read to the members and guests. Mr. Melton indicated that committees on Water, Wildlife, Forests, and Education would be named at the next meeting.

It was pointed out by several members and State officers that although Izaak Walton was a fisherman known primarily for his writing of "The Compleat Angler," that Walton was also a great lover of the outdoors and a conservationist. The local chapter has dedicated itself to a broad conservation program, including all activities which seek to maintain a natural balance of our natural resources. Projects to this end will soon be initiated, it was indicated by the Board of Directors in a brief meeting on Wednesday. —Clarence F. Glessner, Secretary.

---

## CLINTON COUNTY FISH AND GAME ASSOCIATION NEWS

The Clinton County Fish and Game Association is a sportmen's association in Clinton County, not a County Association, but when it conducted its annual membership drive in April it secured members from every known spot in the world—3006 in all.

Its membership contest was very successful, and resulted in a tie between Directors Robert Emery and Paul Heimer, each having sold 360 memberships. Ralph Morris sold 233, for third place in contest. Messrs. Emery and Heimer each received a Woolrich hunting coat, and Mr. Morris a Woolrich hunting shirt, prizes donated by Mr. E. C. Tobias, a charter member.

Each member was given the privilege of subscribing to the GAME NEWS or the ANGLER. There were 545 GAME NEWS and 382 ANGLER membership subscriptions sold during the membership drive.

Honor Rolls were presented to all camps or organizations of sportsmen regardless of their interests—whether hunting, fishing, or nature—if they were 100% membership in association.

A year's subscription to the GAME NEWS, ANGLER, and a set of the Wildlife Booklets "My Land and Your Land" were presented to every school system and library of the association's area of the county.

The Board of Directors has been increased from 24 to 66 in the past three years, and every community of association's area has been given representation thereon.

Annual fishing and hunting contests are conducted by the Clinton County Sportsmen's Federation. This federation is an inter-locking Board of Directors of the three associations in the county. The Federation is composed of the President, the Secretary, and the Chairman of the Fish, the Game, and the Membership Committees of each of the three associations, which include: the Clinton County Fish and Game Association; the Western Clinton Sportsmen's Association; and the Southern Clinton County Forest, Fish and Game Association.

Any member of the three Associations is eligible for all contests with the exceptions

of the officers, the directors and employees of the Pennsylvania Game and Fish Commissions.

There are 12 contests with a prize of $5.00 for each. The contests are as wollows:

FISHING PRIZES—The longest Brook, Rainbow, and Brown trout; Sucker—4/1 to 3/31/45; Smallmouth Black Bass; and Grass Pike.

HUNTING PRIZES—Crow, Most Pair of Feet; Foxes, Most 10/1/45 to 3/31/46; Turkey, Heaviest; Bear, Heaviest; Deer, Widest Spread; and Deer, Most Points.

Chapel programs were sponsored in all High Schools concerning "Hunt Safely Week." Moving pictures were shown at all programs. Pictures were also shown in all theaters of county. The results were beyond all expectations. There were only two hunting accidents in the county during 1944 hunting season, neither of which was serious.

A rabbit trapping program was sponsored in the city of Lock Haven during the past winter. It was in charge of Game Protector Miles L. Reeder and Scout Executive Charles W. Pifer. The seven troops participating were very successful in trapping rabbits, which were subsequently stocked in all hunting areas of the county.

The feeding program was carried on and feed of all kinds was distributed in every part of the county. Browse was cut by groups of sportsmen. The Piper Aircraft Corporation furnished airplanes and aviators to "bomb" the woods with feed where man could not travel.

A few deer died, but despite the extreme winter the game did not suffer to a great extent from the lack of food. Most of the deer that died were fawns or those wounded during the past hunting season.

Fox hunts were held during the months of January, February, and March. They were in charge of a Captain from the area of the hunt and Game Protector Miles L. Reeder. Plans of each hunt were advertised in local papers. The hunts were held on Wednesday afternoons. They were staged under adverse weather conditions due to the snow. However, foxes were seen on each hunt, shots were fired on each, and animals were killed on half of the hunts.

All sportsmen were invited to participate in the stocking of fish. An announcement was put in the local papers at least 72 hours before the arrival of the fish. A definite location and time for meeting was set. This method of stocking promotes a fine spirit of cooperation and understanding between members and non-members of the associations, between the associations, and between all sportsmen and the Fish Commission.

Ringneck pheasants are going to be raised by the association. A committee composed of Co-Chairman J. B. McCool, County Agricultural Agent, and T. C. Snyder, Chairman of Game Committee, and a Director Member from every area of the county which is considered a good ringneck area will have charge of the project.

The Officers for 1945 are: L. S. Winner, President; C. B. Grieb, First Vice-President; T. C. Snyder, Second Vice-President; C. E. Moore, Third Vice-President; J. A. Painter, Secretary; C. Q. Dietz, Treasurer.

The association has been honored as follows for 1945—J. A. Painter is President of the Clinton County Sportsmen's Federation, L. S. Winner is Delegate of the Clinton County Sportsmen's Federation to the Central Division of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs and is Chairman of the Central Division.

---

York Chapter No. 67 of the Izaak Walton League of America inaugurated a unique tree selling campaign to raise funds for a new property they recently purchased. At the May meeting 31 trees were auctioned off, bids ranging from $200 down to $10, the bulk going at $50 and $25. The grand total amounted to $1015. That's the kind of men Waltonians are!

Every Waltonian is to be given the opportunity to have a tree planted for him while helping to maintain the pay-as-you-go plan to finance the new property. The auction will be repeated at the June meeting, and orders are acceptable any time. The club urges its members to include every native Pennsylvania specie in the trees they plant.

What greater demonstration of a man's faith in the future for a better world is there than to take time to plant a tree that will stand for many years, unselfishly giving forth to everybody its beauty, its summer shade, its fall crop of seeds and nuts for wildlife?

The Central Sportsmen's Association held a meeting June 28 in St. Paul's Parish house to stimulate interest in clean sports, the proper use of gun and rod, and the decent respect that all Americans should have for wildlife and the use of our forests, fields and streams. A special effort was made to interest the Boy Scouts, who were especially invited.

Motion pictures on wildlife subjects and exhibits of mounted fish and fishing equipment were planned to interest both young and old.

---

One thousand day-old ringneck pheasant chicks were distributed among members of the West End Sportsmen's Association, Sunbury, and a number of high school boys who are interested in game propogation and hunting. The West End Sportsmen's Association is paying all the expenses in raising them.

**The second day of deer season last year Paul Pennington, Petrolia, a member of a hunting camp in Forest County, killed a 40 lb. "wolf" which measured 59 inches from tip of tail to nose. The only "wolves" which have been killed in Pennsylvania since the resident animals were killed or driven off many years ago have been coyotes escaped or turned loose by persons who got tired keeping them.**

Game Protector Walter M. Thomas sent in this interesting photo showing where deer had eaten the bark from trunks of locust trees durin the past winter.

## OUTDOOR WRITERS MEET

A committee composed of Nash Buckingham, Charles E. Gilham and J. Hammond Brown of the Outdoor Writers Association of America held an all-day conference with Jay "Ding" Darling on June 6 at the Hotel Stevens in Chicago. E. Sidney Stevens of Columbia, Missouri, one of the leading figures in the national conservation picture, sat in with the committee for the full discussion. Henry P. Davis, of Bridgeport, Connecticut, also sat in on most of the proceedings as an observer.

The entire gamut of problems affecting the OWAA, its place in the national conservation picture, needed changes in administrative methods and refinancing were fully discussed through the entire day and the agreements reached may be summed up as follows:

The members of the OWAA are now in position to render to the country the greatest service in the conservation of natural renewable resources of any organization or agency. They can do so by preaching to their respective constituents the gospel of sound conservation—the protection of the soil and the waters, and, as far as possible, their restoration to their former condition and status. They must tell the people that *their* welfare, and indeed their existence, as well as the welfare of wildlife, depend ultimately and utterly upon the soil and the waters. If they will build a better mousetrap by following such a course, conservation of natural renewable resources will be largely accomplished and the problems of the OWAA will be substantially solved.

The OWAA recognizes its peculiar fitness to wage campaigns of education, to make its own decisions in conservation problems, and to review and criticize, if necessary, the acts of conservation officials, both State and Federal.

It plans to make increased effort to awaken the newspapers of the country to give more space to conservation news, the recreational sports of hunting, angling and other participating sports. The present example of the *Dayton Journal-Herald* was cited as an excellent case for study. It was also indicated that the time was at hand when the OWAA could well have a missionary in the field for just this purpose.

## THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW

The cashew nut and poison ivy belong to the same plant family.

---

Because of incessant rains during last fall, that prevented plowing and seeding, France expects a short wheat crop this year.

---

The tiny grasshopper sparrow is one of the commonest sparrows in the eastern part of the United States, yet it is one of the least known because of its seclusive habits and its thin, insect-like song. Its high-pitched song of "zee-e-e-e-e-e-e-e-e" can be heard for only a distance of several hundred feet. This song gives rise to the name of grasshopper sparrow.

It lives in old dry grassy fields and will not take wing until almost stepped upon. When it does fly, it seldom rises higher than a few feet above the ground. Its favorite singing perch is on a fence rail. Its nest is rarely found because it is cleverly concealed under the grass. The bird avoids giving a clue to the location of its nest by entering the area through a long and devious pathway in the grass.

---

Young hummingbirds apparently do not realize that honeysuckle, larkspur and bird-of-paradise blossoms offer an inviting source of food until at least two weeks after they have left the nest, Frank Bene of Phoenix, Arizona, reports in the *Condor*, a magazine of Western ornithology.

The earliest acts of the young birds which bear any semblance to feeding behavior, Mr. Bene finds, are extension and retraction of the tongue, and probing twigs and leaves with the bill, at first while perched on a twig and later while hovering about it on the wing.

Hummingbirds seem to recognize flowers as a source of food only after they have acquired sufficient strength for sustained flight. Before that, even though an adult would probe a blossom only a few feet away, the fledglings still made no attempt to search the flowers.

---

The female halibut weighs 10 times as much as her mate.

---

Early-hatched chicks grow faster than those hatched late in the season.

---

Old apple trees in poor soil are invigorated by pruning, and by cutting out weak wood and slender outside shoots.

---

The dormouse usually hibernates for six months, and a sudden coercive wakening may be fatal.

---

Ground corncobs are a satisfactory mulch for roses and garden plants in general.

---

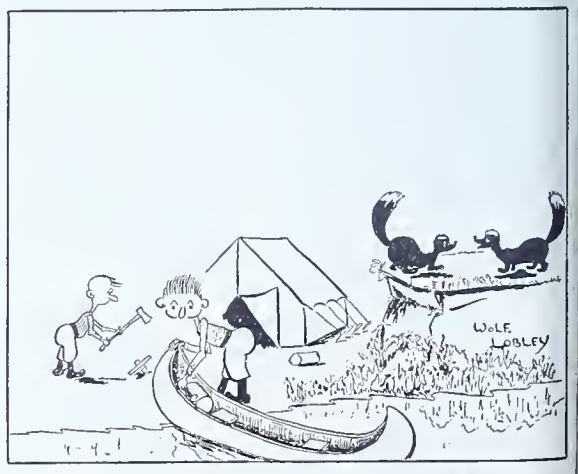
A honeybee visits some 200 flowers to gather a load of pollen on a single trip before returning to the hive.

---

A spiny species of cactus grows in Colorado at 7,000 feet above sea level; it is one of the few cacti that will stand cold winters.

## FOX RABIES

In the July 7, 1945 number of *Current Medical Literature*, H. N. Johnson in speaking about fox rabies says "whenever fortuitous circumstances have allowed wild canine species such as the fox or coyote to become abundant in a region where rabies is enzootic in dogs there is a constant threat of a serious epizootic of rabies. The gray fox species has become unusually abundant in several of the Southern states. During the past seven years fox rabies has been reported in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, New York, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, South Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin. In certain areas where foxes were usually abundant true epizootics of rabies developed. In one county in which fox rabies was prevalent 2,900 dogs were vaccinated within a period of three weeks. Four dogs developed rabies after vaccination, all within a period of thirty days. It is probable that these dogs were exposed before vaccination. Fourteen foxes, later proved rabid, were killed by fox hounds which had been vaccinated, and none developed rabies. No further cases of rabies have developed among vaccinated dogs in this county. The author cites several other outbreaks of fox rabies. In most instances the actions of rabid foxes are quite characteristic. Foxes are normally timid and avoid human habitations; those killed while invading farm yards in daytime have consistently been proved rabid by laboratory examination. Of the fox specimens submitted to the Alabama State Health Department, 31 were reported positive for rabies in 1943 and 32 in 1944. Nine persons were known to have been bitten by rabid foxes in 1944. It is essential that action be taken to reduce the number of gray foxes in areas where rabies is present. It is not necessary or practical to attempt to exterminate foxes, but their number must be reduced to a level where contact infection from fox to fox will not be frequent enough to maintain rabies. For the protection of their dogs and of their sport, fox hunters should aid rather than oppose such control measures. It is important that the heads of foxes and other wild animals such as skunks and coyotes be sent to laboratories for examination, so that there will be definite evidence of the extent of the disease."




"Not yet Alfred. Wait until they finish unpacking."

# 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF LACEY ACT

Fifty years ago this year the American *Field Magazine* started a fund to employ legal talent to knock out in the courts the hunting and fishing license law. It raised about $1,500 but before the legal battle started the editors thought better of it, refunded the money to the donors and have been a force for wildlife protection ever since.

It was 45 years ago on the 25th of this month that Congress passed the Lacey Act, really the first serious federal approval to the protection of wildlife. It regulated the interstate and foreign commerce in wild birds and animals. A number of amendments have been passed which have materially strengthened the Act.

Now and then someone arises to inquire "What progress has been made in wildlife preservation and restoration in the past generation? Are our efforts futile or have we definite accomplishments to which we can point with pride?"

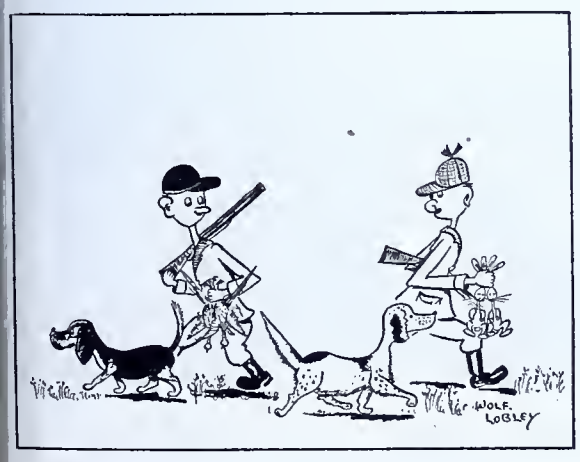
The answer is that tremendous strides have been made in this field. Much, of course, remains to be done if we are to hold the gains made through wise management practices.

In 1900 only five states had a license system, Michigan and North Dakota leading off in 1895. Since 1900 all of the other forty-three states have put in a license law and otherwise have passed legislation designed to protect and increase birds, animals and fish. All states now have Game Commissions; most of them have authority to regulate seasons.

The States, which are more directly responsible to the sportsmen, have done a wonderful job in protecting and managing wildlife within their borders.

In 1916 the Waterfowl Treaty between the United States and Canada was entered into. This was followed in 1918 by the Treaty Act giving effect to the Treaty.

The Upper Mississippi Fish and Wildlife Refuge was created in 1924—a monument to the late Will Dilg and the Izaak Walton League. In the years to come this great refuge will be one of the most popular recreational areas in all the country, for it borders on four states and is almost in the front yard of more than fifteen million people. This refuge established the principle of Congress acting separately on such projects.




Next came the establishment of the Bear River Marshes Refuge out in Utah. It took several years to bring this about but in 1928 Congress stamped its approval and gave sanctuary to millions of waterfowl in that area.

In the following year Congress passed the Migratory Bird Conservation Act providing for a refuge system and annual appropriations for its purchase and development. While Congress did not follow through on the maximum appropriations authorized, it did give support to the principle and later on, through other enactments, provided the needed revenues.

The year 1930 witnessed the establishment of Cheyenne Bottoms Refuge in Kansas by congressional act. This same year the Senate Wildlife Committee was formed.

The Duck Stamp Act, which has put about $10,000,000 of sportsmen's money into the refuge program, was enacted in 1934. The same year saw the U. S. Forest Game Refuge Act and the Coordination Act put upon the statute books. And the House Wildlife Committee came into being.

In 1937 came the Migratory Bird Treaty with Mexico.

The Pittman-Robertson Act, providing Federal aid for State wildlife projects, was passed in 1937. About $20,000,000 of excise taxes collected on sporting arms and ammunition from sportsmen purchasers have been earmarked into this fund. A little over half of it has been appropriated for the purposes of the Act. The remainder is a backlog for post-war projects when the States will launch their expansion programs.

In 1940 the old Biological Survey and the Bureau of Fisheries were consolidated into one agency in the Interior Department under the new name of Fish and Wildlife Service.

Other progress items could be mentioned. Annual appropriations have increased from a paltry few thousand dollars to several millions. Personnel in both state and federal agencies have multiplied several thousand per cent. Wildlife management today is big business. People now regard recreation and sportsmanship as an integral part of life. Our whole conception has changed in this regard, and we want land, water and plants to be conserved, knowing that if this is done wildlife will be the greatest by-product.

## THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW

When in a state of hibernation, a ground squirrel can be pinched, dropped from several feet in the air, and even have pins stuck in it without stirring from its sleep.

* * * * *

The chipping sparrow has been called the hairbird because of its fondness for horse hair which it uses for its nest.

* * * * *

The gingko, a relic of a large plant family that had representatives over much of the world in long-past geological days, is, perhaps, the oldest type of tree. It is also known as the maiden-hair tree.

Two-headed turtle brought to the Commission for examination recently. Note the bald undeveloped head with its large, open mouth.

## NEWS FROM OTHER STATES

*Kentucky*

On June 11 Kentucky's Division of Game and Fish started a training school for field personnel in the Division offices at Frankfort. Earl Wallace, Director of the Division, explained that these men would serve directly as his assistants in the field, but that their services would be available to other fish and game divisional heads whenever required. The appointments became effective on June 11, when the special school started.

So far there have been 18 Junior Conservation Clubs organized in Kentucky. Others are scheduled to organize next fall when school reopens.

*New Jersey*

The fox is definitely on the blacklist in New Jersey. The Board of Fish and Game Commissioners has named him "Public Enemy No. 1" and issued a "declaration of open war" against him.

In Burlington county alone, 551 foxes were trapped during January, February and March of this year. This catch is reported to have "barely scratched the surface" of the fox population. Foxes are blamed for the scarcity of pheasants in the State.

*Wisconsin*

The Wisconsin Conservation Department announces that farmers in that State planted 6,484,300 trees last year to lead all states in the nation in the number of trees set out by farmers. South Carolina was second with 4,320,200 and New York was third with 4,122,000.

Forty percent of the Wisconsin trees went into wind-breaks and shelterbelts. The rest were planted for timber and wood productions.

## GROUSE DECLINE IN MICHIGAN

The Michigan Department of Conservation reports that prairie chickens, sharptailed grouse and ruffed grouse have been declining since 1941. Kills were listed as follows:

| | Prairie Chickens & Sharptails | Average per hunter | Ruffed Grouse | Average per hunter |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1942 | 39,430 | 3.97 | 381,602 | 5.55 |
| 1943 | 25,969 | 3.25 | 290,117 | 5.07 |
| 1944 | 17,879 | 2.94 | 260,475 | 4.55 |

An anticipated 1945 upturn may not materialize, the report states, because of bad weather during the nesting season.

# 40,000 RABBITS

(From Page 3)

Photo by Samuel H. Barnes.

**After they are trapped the rabbits are released in the country far remote from Victory gardens and truck patches. They soon find new and often better homes.**

junior sportsmen's group and supervised their rabbit trapping program. Adult sportsmen's organizations in Delaware County took an interest in this program and they with the Game Protector, through distribution of these trapped rabbits, were able to have 2,000 acres of posted land opened to public hunting.

Friendly rivalry has developed in some instances, especially between the Game Protectors and sportsmen of Berks County in eastern Pennsylvania, and the Game Protectors and sportsmen of Allegheny County in western Pennsylvania. After holding the trapping record for two consecutive years, Allegheny County is obliged this season to acknowledge Berks County as the trapping leader with a total of 2,650 rabbits to their 2,254.

Lycoming County is now in third place with a total of 2,067 rabbits and Mercer County fourth with 1,938 bunnies. This proves that it is not always necessary to have a large metropolitan area or large protected reservations available from which to trap. A trapping organization may remove hundreds of rabbits from small towns if it is done as thoroughly as in these two counties.

Splendid cooperation has again been extended the Game Commission and sportsmen of Pennsylvania by the military authorities within the State. Letterkenny Ordnance Depot near Chambersburg has again held the lead among the protected areas trapped, with a total of 1,581 rabbits, or a total of 3,667 for the past two seasons. The Pennsylvania Ordnance Works at Allenwood, about 11 miles south of Williamsport, was a runner-up with a total of 1,577 rabbits, making a grand total of 2,454 for the past two seasons. The agent trapping this reservation established an all-time trapping record by securing these 1,577 rabbits in 33 days with approximately 225 traps. This is an average of 48 rabbits a day; the highest number taken in any one day was 127. And that's a lot of rabbits!

Another achievement especially deserving of mention is that rabbits were trapped in 359 cities and towns in Pennsylvania. This is the greatest number ever represented and proves that the trapping program was more thoroughly organized than ever.

Many people imagine that a small town is not worth considering in a rabbit trapping campaign. This is far from true. Pennsylvania Game Protectors, sportsmen and Boy Scouts have caught surprising numbers of rabbits in towns with populations of 700 to 1,000. Bradford County, along the northern tier of Pennsylvania, is one of the outstanding examples of what can be done in a few towns. A total of 463 rabbits was secured there last winter.

The cities and towns from which 100 or more rabbits were caught are as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Allentown | 1,259 |
| New Castle | 885 |
| Pittsburgh | 797 |
| Reading | 775 |
| Bethlehem | 596 |
| Indiana | 541 |
| Harrisburg | 379 |
| Westmont | 356 |
| Greenville | 347 |
| Sharpsville | 335 |
| Brookville | 334 |
| Grove City | 329 |
| Wesleyville | 319 |
| Laughlintown | 305 |
| Sharon | 299 |
| Mt. Lebanon | 292 |
| DuBois | 291 |
| Williamsport and South Williamsport | 290 |
| Franklin | 250 |
| Coverdale | 233 |
| Mercer | 230 |
| Meadville | 225 |
| Jersey Shore | 220 |
| Zelienople | 216 |
| Somerset | 215 |
| Connellsville | 213 |
| Washington | 209 |
| Yeadon | 205 |
| Sayre | 203 |
| Bridgeville | 196 |
| Punxsutawney | 191 |
| State College | 189 |
| Bloomsburg | 181 |
| Lehighton | 179 |
| Uniontown | 175 |
| Camp Hill | 166 |
| Slippery Rock | 162 |
| Wyomissing | 158 |
| Philadelphia | 152 |
| Berwick | 150 |
| Reynoldsville | 149 |
| Monongahela | 146 |
| York | 144 |
| Carlisle | 143 |
| Ephrata | 143 |
| Waynesburg | 142 |
| New Cumberland | 134 |
| Baden | 133 |
| Canton | 126 |
| Elizabethtown | 125 |
| Oil City | 122 |
| Altoona | 119 |

**Montgomery County Federation members inspect a corral which they erected and into which they are about to drive rabbits from a nearby nursery.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Selinsgrove | 118 |
| Conneautville | 118 |
| Aliquippa | 115 |
| Scottdale | 111 |
| Smethport | 109 |
| Danville | 106 |
| Erie | 106 |
| Knox | 103 |
| Colver | 103 |
| Sandy Lake | 102 |

Military reservations, watersheds, parks, institutional grounds, State Game Farms and other protected areas producing the most rabbits were as follows:

| | Number of Acres Trapped | No. Rabbits | Acres per Rabbit |
|---|---|---|---|
| Letterkenny U. S. Ordnance Depot, Chambersburg | 2,000 | 1,581 | 1.26 |
| Pa. Ordnance Works, Allenwood | 2,000 | 1,577 | 1.26 |
| Auxiliary Refuge No. 99 (Maiden Creek Watershed, Reading) | 1,000 | 1,017 | .98 |
| Hershey Estates, Hershey | 750 | 385 | 1.95 |
| Eastern State Penitentiary, Graterford, Montgomery County | 150 | 266 | .56 |
| Eisler's Nursey (near Renfrew, Butler County) | 200 | 233 | .86 |
| U. S. Ordnance Reservation, Geneva, Crawford County | 300 | 219 | 1.36 |
| Schuylkill Haven Fish and Game Association Refuge, Schuylkill County | 150 | 163 | .92 |
| Loyalsock State Game Farm, Lycoming County | 200 | 161 | 1.24 |
| Sportsmen's Propagation Area, Ebensburg, Cambria County | 150 | 130 | 1.15 |
| State Hospital Farms, Norristown, Montgomery County | 200 | 128 | 1.56 |
| Northeastern Federal Penitentiary, Lewisburg | 500 | 125 | 4. |
| Dutch Hill Sportsmen's Refuge, Schuylkill County | 450 | 123 | 3.65 |
| Game Refuge No. 145-E, Mt. Gretna, Lebanon County | 100 | 120 | .83 |
| Fisher State Game Farm, Montgomery County | 175 | 116 | 1.5 |
| State Game Lands No. 182, Berks County | 200 | 112 | 1.78 |

State Game Propagation areas which supplied the most rabbits were:

| | Number of Acres Trapped | No. Rabbits | Acres per Rabbit |
|---|---|---|---|
| A-3—Hanover Municipal Water Works | 825 | 577 | 1.43 |
| A-9—Berks County Prison Farm | 300 | 201 | 1.49 |
| A-11—Whitte Lands (Springtown, Bucks County) | 125 | 180 | .69 |
| A-13—Mary Immaculate Seminary, Northampton County | 460 | 193 | 2.38 |
| A-18—James L. Boswell Farm, Montgomery County | 60 | 109 | .56 |
| B-3—The Davidson Farms, Lackawanna County | 401 | 145 | 2.76 |
| E-1—Western State Penitentiary, Centre County | 325 | 121 | 2.68 |

Photo by Bruce P. Yeager.
**Ringneck pheasants in wire trap, part of a large number caught by this method for transfer last year.**

Since the statewide trapping campaign began during the winter of 1937-38 rabbits were trapped as follows:

| *Fiscal year* | *Number trapped* |
|---|---|
| 1937-38 | 5,853 |
| 1938-39 | 22,980 |
| 1939-40 | 31,053 |
| 1940-41 | 32,799 |
| 1941-42 | 20,330 |
| 1942-43 | 30,196 |
| 1943-44 | 33,083 |
| 1944-45 | 40,078 |

This year the rabbits trapped in the seven field administrative divisions of the State were as follows:

| *Division* | *Number trapped* |
|---|---|
| "A" | 11,556 |
| "B" | 1,494 |
| "C" | 4,221 |
| "D" | 3,271 |
| "E" | 2,591 |
| "F" | 8,126 |
| "G" | 8,819 |
| Total | 40,078 |

In order to provide proper control and assure the best results during the trapping program, three types of formal game trapping permits were issued by the Field Division Supervisors, namely,

Class "A"—Issued to sportsmen, Deputy Game Protectors and other persons to trap game on a voluntary basis only.

Class "B"—Issued to sportsmen, Deputy Game Protectors, Boy Scout Troops or youth groups to trap rabbits at the rate of 50c per head each, if Game Commission traps were used, and 60c per head if the Scout Troop built its own traps.

Class "C"—Issued to agents who were paid by the day or hour for the time they spent trapping.

A total of 111 Class "A", 787 Class "B", (108 of which were issued to Boy Scout Troops,) and 13 Class "C" permits was issued. The number of rabbits trapped in the seven Field Divisions by Class "B" agents and paid for at either 50c or 60c each was as follows:

| *Division* | *No. Rabbits* | *Amount Paid* |
|---|---|---|
| "A" | 9085 | $ 4,544.00 |
| "B" | 1178 | 589.00 |
| "C" | 3925 | 1,962.70 |
| "D" | 1259 | 629.50 |
| "E" | 2208 | 1,104.40 |
| "F" | 6954 | 3,477.40 |
| "G" | 8222 | 4,149.10 |
| Totals | 32,831 | $16,456.10 |

Boy Scouts and one or two other youth groups, included in the above table, trapped 4,781 rabbits in the seven divisions, for which they received a total of:

| *Division* | *No. Rabbits* | *Amount Paid* |
|---|---|---|
| "A" | 613 | $ 306.50 |
| "B" | 121 | 60.50 |
| "C" | 1024 | 512.20 |
| "D" | 303 | 151.50 |
| "E" | 511 | 255.50 |
| "F" | 1007 | 503.50 |
| "G" | 1292 | 683.00 |
| Totals | 4871 | $2,472.70 |

The cost of operation includes salaries, wages, traveling expenses, materials and supplies, and rabbits paid for at the per head rate. The total expenditure incident to the rabbit transfer program this past season was $36,046.34.

It has been the practice to charge one-fifth of the cost of manufacturing the rabbit trapping equipment to the current year's expenses. The net cost of rabbit trapping for the 1944-45 fiscal year, therefore, was $29,727.63, which means that 40,078 animals were trapped, and released in suitable cover, at an average cost per head of 74c. The

*(Continued on Page 30)*

# Backyard Adventures With Wildlife

(From Page 5)

filing to the treacherous feast, it was noted that some of them carried small whitish aphids or plant lice clamped firmly between their front legs. Upon reaching the syrup the aphids were carefully deposited at advantageous points about the drop of poison where they at once went to work avidly sucking it up.

When the tiny abdomens of the plant lice were swelled to the point of bursting, their masters once again picked them up to presumably return them to the nest. I knew that ants pasture plant lice on convenient plants and milk them periodically, but I had never before witnessed what I had repeatedly read, *i.e.*, certain species of ants keep cattle (plant lice) in underground stalls constructed by the ants for that purpose. The whitish pallor of the lice that I had seen suggested a subterranean existence and therefore it was safe to conclude that the diminutive ant cattle were hauled out for the special treat so generously presented them.

I know people who restlessly fidget on their respective back porches complaining that they have nothing to do and will most certainly succumb to the monotony. All the while they are grossly unaware that nearby there may be a teeming ant hill. An ant colony plus the judicious exercise of a bit of patience and imagination has done away with many a dull hour for me.

I know a chap who soundly denounced a certain wilderness spot because he failed to see a moose, yet he sniffed at the miracle of seeing five fully grown snowshoe rabbits or varying hares seeking bits of salted food at the kitchen door of the camp; two of them within easy arm's reach.

Analogously, there are too many of us at home who act like the disgruntled one above. We are seldom satisfied with what we term the commonplace because we know so little about it. Altogether too many of us fail to see the *trees* because of the forest.

If life is relative what will it be like ten, twenty or thirty years from now? It seems that each succeeding generation requires a stepped up version of the entertainment or pleasures that amply sufficed the preceding one. If increasingly new levels of excitement are required to satisfy our merest whims and simplest pleasures, where will it all end?

We are like improvident butterflies flitting about from bloom to bloom, tasting here and tasting there, but never drinking deeply anywhere.

Drink deep of the well of life and the most insignificant things take on a new light; a light fed by the fuels of understanding.

Insects are common and insignificant denizens of every backyard. Indeed, there are altogether too many of the so-called pests. Actually, have you ever pondered as to the number of different species that live their lives within the confines of the average city lot. The late Dr. Frank Lutz of the American Museum of Natural History undertook to answer that question. When he completed the collection he had 1,402 species. His backyard measured 75 x 200 feet.

Unlike Dr. Lutz I am not an expert *entomologist,* yet I have positively identified 230 of them in a 50 x 150 foot area. The weeping willow tree which dominates the rear of the yard produced the greatest number, 51 distinct species. The willow is doubtlessly the greatest horticultural Mecca for insects extant.

My latest find was made only yesterday morning (June 28). It was a larva of the geometrid moth. What made this extremely common and pestiferous measuring-worm a rather uncommon find was the fact that it had been parasitized by a tachina fly, an insect somewhat resembling a common housefly except that it is considerably smaller. The little fly had laid its eggs on the caterpillar. When the worm-like larvae hatched they at once bored into the soft insides of the host to feed on its custardy contents. When discovered, the victim was still encumbered with some two dozen diminutive cocoons in which the flies were completing their transformation into adults before emerging.

The geometrid caterpillar is a great mimic and despite the fact that this one was practically at the end of its rope it still attempted to stiffen out from the lilac branch to which it was clinging with its false legs, in a remarkable simulation of a short twig. However, it was much too weak from the depredations of the parasites and soon had to revert to conventional measuring-worm posture.

My most unusual insect find consisted of a meager half-dozen ant-lion pits. In a corner of the lot I have a small pile of unneeded flagstones. Like miniature cliffs some of them overhang the fine dry sand on which they are piled. Under the excellent protection afforded them the ant-lions are wont to build their clever pitfalls.

The "lion," about the size of a black ant, and really the larva of an insect resembling a dragonfly, lies at the bottom and in the very center of its funnel-shaped pit, buried to its jaws in the fine sand. When an ant or other insect stumbles into the pit and slides downward on the shifty slopes to within reach of the big clamping jaws of the lion, its fate is sealed. In an instant the victim is seized and quickly killed by the deadly clasp of those jaws. Afterwards the body juices of the more or less succulent prey are sucked at leisure.

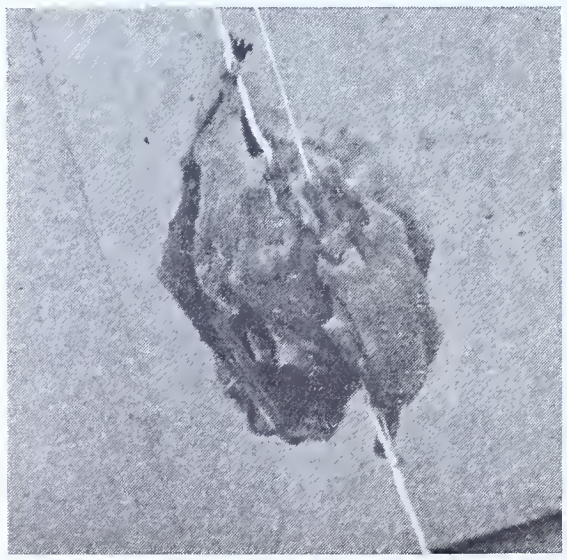
If a trapped victim seems to be making its getaway up the crumbling slopes of the pit, with a toss of its head, the ant-lion flicks sand at the fugitive which invariably causes it to come avalanching down to within reach.

I have spent many a daylight hour tossing ants and de-winged flies into the pits and as many nocturnal ones watching the larvae construct their pitfalls. Like little bulldozers they spin round and round flinging the sand right and left with vigorous tosses of their heads until the neat funnels meet with their approval.

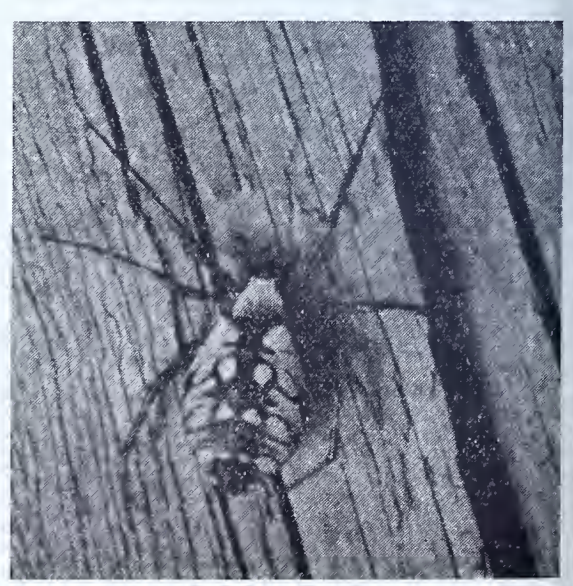
In the same *order* is included the more common and equally interesting aphis-lion. The larva of the beautiful adult form is so voracious that the mother must place each egg as she lays it, on top of a stiff silken stalk, out of reach of the terrible infants that hatch first. After a newly hatched larva descends from its perch it finds itself surrounded by numerous inedible threads instead of savory eggs containing prospective brothers and sisters as would be the case if the eggs were laid in a mass on the surface of the leaf.

*(Continued on Page 30)*

**A Geometrid Moth Caterpillar with Tachina Fly Cacoons attached to it.**



**A "huddle" of bats. Three young little red bats clinging to mother who in turn is clinging to a string trellis.**



**A common Garden or Golden-orb Spider.**

# Retriever A Big Hunting Asset

(From Page 7)

up the crippled and wounded birds. For the man who wants a dog to stop and point when he locates a covey of quail or pheasant, the ever popular pointer and the setters head the list with the German short haired pointer and the Brittany spaniel, the only pointing spaniel, also doing a good job of pointing their birds and retrieving.

The next classification of gun dogs that seek game and retrieve it is the spaniel group. These dogs spring or flush game. There are many kinds of spaniels with the springer the best known in the hunting fields. We used a springer for years to "spring" pheasants for the gun and to retrieve birds shot. They also worked on fur (rabbits), retrieved jacksnipe, and did some duck retrieving for us. A few years ago we sent to England for a Clumber spaniel, the largest spaniel known, to see how it compared to the springer. The Clumber is a 60 to 65-pound dog, a beautiful dog with his white coat and orange markings, but slower than the springer.

Spaniels do not point their game so they are not adapted for quail, but they are wonderful "rough shooting" dogs for ringnecks and furred game. If a hunter has no use for a pointing breed, does little upland game shooting, or expects to spend most of his time duck hunting, he can use one of those big- rugged retrievers like the Chesapeake, Labrador, or golden. Smaller retriever breeds are the Irish water spaniel and American water spaniel. The Chesapeake, Labrador and golden are the "canine tanks" of the marshes. They have the power and weight to get thru the worst cover and how they can take it!

The American water spaniel may not be hefty but he's a dandy. He loves to hunt and will handle anything from ducks to pheasants. We've had some great shooting over this breed which will retrieve anything.

We have used Labradors for years. The one we have now was trained primarily as a pick-up dog. That is, to walk at heel and retrieve on command. But we decided she could be taught to quarter the ground near us like a spaniel and flush pheasants for us so we had her trained to do that. If we are hunting thick pheasant cover without our setter, we can send this Labrador into it and keep her moving in any direction with a hand signal. She "beats" the cover to flush the birds. We know a springer spaniel does this work faster and better. But there have been hunts when having neither setter nor spaniel with us this Labrador did the whole job of crashing heavy week thickets and brush to rout pheasants and also retrieve for us.

It's amazing what certain dogs like to do in their work of finding cripples and saving game. Some of them go beyond their regular routine to help us. For example, one of the finest duck retrievers we ever saw work in heavy grass and weeds was an English setter at Morris, Ill. This dog, would run a block or two across the grassy prairie to get cripples that soared away from us. The setter is not primarily a duck dog, yet here was one that loved it.

Altho springers will go to water eagerly they are not water retrievers in a class with the big rugged retrievers which are bred for the toughest water work. Yet we once worked a springer (Horsford Hereunto, the dog with the funny name) that would crack ice on Illinois river hunts to bring in mallards. And just a year ago when we were shooting pheasants on a licensed preserve in January, our setter made eleven water retrieves in the icy water, sometimes running out on the ice and then dropping into the pond. (This spectacle gave us a chill every ten minutes!) Here was a pointing dog not expected to work in ice water like a well protected Chesapeake or Labrador, yet it retrieved as eagerly as any retriever.

If you are thinking about a hunting dog in the near future (and we hope you are!) and you haven't decided on the breed, better figure out which types of hunting you need your dog for, talk to some of the boys in your town who own dogs, and rely on their advice, always keeping this point in mind: most of us dog owners are awfully "sot" in our ways. Talk to a dyed-in-the-wool pointer man about a setter you want to get and he'll go to work on you to sell the pointer to you. Chat with a Chesapeake Bay retriever enthusiast about a Golden or Labrador pup—and then look out. You know what will happen!

Let someone suggest you look for an Irish setter or a springer for your pheasant hunting and should a Brittany man overhear it—you are in for some arguments.

We have hunted over and like so many different breeds that frankly we have no great favorites. At this time we own a Labrador but last fall some of our best duck hunting fun was over Chesapeakes and goldens. We can be happy with any retriever that's obedient and has a good nose. We are keen about spaniels. That's evident or we would not have been president of a spaniel club for seven years. For years we have alternated between setters and pointers in quail hunting down south. German shorthaired pointers, trained cockers, water spaniels, Irish setters—we've tried 'em all and we like 'em.

But the big point about any dog you get is this: if your pup has average intelligence and is *obedient*, he has a chance to knock the socks off the dog that may be much faster than yours but won't mind in the field, because the disobedient dog hunts mostly for itself and takes most of your time keeping up with him or trying to find him. The obedient dog that answers a whistle and hunts for you thus has a mighty good chance to find as many birds *near* you, as the wild disobedient dog will locate for himself two or three hills or a mile away.

In looking at the whole hunting dog picture today you'll notice that dog clubs, conservation departments, and professional conservationists haven't been able to do much about the millions of birds lost by dogless hunters each fall, except call attention to the lamentable situation and urge hunters to be more careful with their long range shooting. Moreover, we as hunters have

(Continued on Page 31)

**You gotta be an expert fence climber to do this. Note how this black Labrador retriever holds a live cock pheasant which it is retrieving.**

**Altho it's a fine retriever and loves water work the Irish water spaniel is not nearly as well known to hunters as it should be. This 4 year old Irish water spaniel is named Pat and owned by Carl K. Prime, Evanston, Ill. The dog has a partridge in its mouth.**

# HORSE AND BUGGY DAYS

(From Page 9)

Former Game Protector Wm. Anneman, of Scranton, feeding an orphan. Photo taken Dec. 20, 1924.

in trying to suppress the fire. He finally succumbed to fatigue and was carried from the scene of the fire by others of the fire fighting crew. Cramps had seized the muscles in his legs, and large knots developed, causing him considerable agony for some hours thereafter. I personally took part in trying to suppress this forest fire at another section, and knew intimately regarding the scope of the fire and the events as they occurred. One of the men informed me within a day or two after this experience, that the refuge keeper wept when the fire broke into his refuge.

Having served as the superior officer of this refuge keeper for a period of fourteen years, and knowing intimately of his pride and responsibility, I cannot doubt that the story of his having wept is absolutely true, even though I was not on the immediate scene to witness his expression of loss and sorrow, as his emotions battled one with the other. Hard labors had gone awry, and the suffering of the young wildlife caught in the path of the fire surely was foremost in his thoughts.

Realizing that much had been done during the fourteen years prior to my entrance in the service in connection with the establishment of these large refuges, I recognize that much worthy work was performed of which I have little personal knowledge. Before my time and for sometime thereafter, we were passing through the period of trial and error, as no precedent had been established anywhere to our knowledge. This work proceeded until about twenty-four large refuges had been established on State Forestry Lands and private lands.

Concern had begun to arise over the need of having full control of game lands. It was my good fortune to become acquainted with a noble man, Mr. John Q. Creveling, Attorney at Law, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania whom I soon learned was an ardent sportsman and conservationist. About this time I was given the post of a field supervising officer, which gave me the opportunity to meet with him often. His counsel and encouragement gave me buoyancy, aid and understanding in dealing with the sportsmen and the general public.

I soon learned that he was working unselfishly toward acquiring game lands, as well as in all conservation problems. We become compatriots so to speak. He knew the Conservation Laws, as he had had much to do with the preparation of the Game Code, and he was a sincere friend of the sportsmen, as well as an unofficial counselor and friend of the Game Department. In his addresses before the sportsmen and the public, he kept unceasingly pounding at the need for ownership of State Game Lands.

By this time, experience had taught that wildlife needs were not always compatible with good forestry practices, and further the large refuges established on private lands gave considerable concern because of their costs and the net results obtained. There was need for game land management practices, which ran counter to the wishes of the private land owners. Consequently a rather rapid trend was developing toward the land purchase program, which was foremost in Mr. Creveling's conservation ideas. He pursued this idea until results were obtained.

After much effort the first State Game Lands were purchased in 1920 in Elk County, on which the first large game refuge was established on State Game Lands in the year 1921. This game lands became number 25. The refuge comprised less than one third of the area purchased, and served to replenish vast wild forested areas in the vicinity with its overflowing game supply. Purchases continued in regions wherever suitable lands could be located in large enough blocks, and refuges of the large type continued to be established until they had exceeded thirty-five in number.

Here we became aware that conditions were rapidly changing, and soon something had to be done or else the while wildlife program in Pennsylvania might be defeated. A number of the large game refuges on private lands were gradually abandoned, as the wild natural food supplies become depleted. It was not uncommon to observe that the wildlife on these large refuges was less than on the open lands that had been hunted consistently. To the consternation of the officials of the Game Commission and a number of the sportsmen, this was a sad plight for the wildlife.

We had to do something and do it quickly, or the whole program might suffer irreparably. There was immediate need for sound land management but beforehand the problem of reducing the deer herds became a necessity. This problem became a heated and much discussed subject, for the reason that the hunters had become accustomed to large deer herds and wanted them regardless. The layman could not perceive the crying need, consequently the problem first confronting the Game Commission and the sportsmen and conservationists who saw was one of re-educating counter to what had successfully brought the game supply, especially deer, up to what was considered one of the finest game states in the union.

The old refuge system had to be carefully adjusted to meet the needs, as game conditions changed so rapidly and before we were fully aware to meet the challenge. A too radical departure would meet with violent protest, because a tried and successful system had brought success. Very few perceived the rapidly changing conditions of the forest growth, and the continued heavy toll taken of the wild natural food by the large deer herds was not in consideration by those demanding large deer herds.

To meet the necessities of the day, all the best minds in conservation were consulted, and all the employees of the Game Commission were interrogated regarding experience and knowledge concerning this grave problem. The changing of the refuge system would only play its particular role in answering the challenge. However, it came, and in 1936 we put into operation our present land management system, which calls for smaller refuges and more of them.

The passing of these large refuges and the horse and buggy days of their existence has become memory only. There are a few of them left, because they continue to serve as excellent retreats for large game in regions where necessity has not demanded their

(Continued on Page 31)

Tame doe on porch of Refuge Headquarters in Warren County.

# Transactions of Commission's Meeting

(From Page 11)

sence of many men in military service and working conditions in industrial plants, restrictions on transportation, and shortage of ammunition. Until this condition is corrected the Commission is of the opinion that removal of the normal daily bag limit, effective immediately, is essential.

*Grackles*—Grackles, commonly known as "blackbirds", due largely to industrial conditions and the general shortage of ammunition, are still present in greater numbers than desirable and causing severe crop losses. It is, therefore, deemed wise to continue these birds on the unprotected list for another year.

(b) *Deer*—The deer herd continues to show a substantial increase, with practically no losses during the past winter except in limited areas. Lumbering operations during recent years have improved forage conditions for these animals over portions of their normal range.

In southeastern Pennsylvania, a thickly populated region where the land is largely devoted to the growing of farm crops, these animals have become a nuisance for the reasons hereinafter enumerated. Since in most of this region there are no large unbroken forests suitable for deer, and hunting such animals there with rifles or single bullets fired from shotguns as required by law could well become hazardous, the Commission is of the opinion that the requests of the organized sportsmen and the landowners for the reduction or elimination of the deer herds in that portion of the Commonwealth are fully justified, and combined season for all deer, except spike bucks, is therefore desirable.

While in a few other counties the abundance of deer would justify an antlerless deer season under control permits, it is deemed best not to declare scattered counties open to antlerless deer this year in view of the fact that a statewide antlerless season will apparently be necessary next year, by which time it is hoped men who are now serving their country will be home and able to participate in the removal of the accumulated surplus animals.

(c) *Bears*—Unfavorable hunting conditions last fall again lowered the kill of bears and damage complaints have increased in various areas. The Commission is of the opinion that to aid busy war workers, and to conserve tires and gasoline, it is again wise to fix the bear hunting season at a time when small game, bears, and deer may be hunted on a combined trip.

(d) *Fur-Bearers*—Indications are that the various fur-bearing animals are sufficiently abundant to justify a season comparable to that in effect last year.

*Opossums*—Opossums still continue to be more abundant than desirable, and the Commission believes it wise to continue these animals on the unprotected list for another year, even though they have been so classified since July 11, 1940.

*License Restorations*—The hunting privileges of two individuals were restored after reconsideration of the facts which influenced their revocation.

*License Revocations*—The hunting privileges of three persons were revoked for two years—two for hunting deer in close season and one for hunting without a non-resident license—and the privileges of another were forfeited indefinitely for mental incompetency.

Photo courtesy The Grand Rapids, Michigan, Press.
**Upland Plover or Bartramian Sandpiper on nest. These birds were once fairly common, but later almost disappeared. Now they are increasing again through constant protection.**

Seventeen persons were denied the right to hunt for a period of anywhere from one to five years as result of referee hearings, depending upon the severity of the offense. A few examples of the carelessness which influenced these cases are as follows:

Discharged gun while attempting to extricate it from brush. The safety was off.

Injured buddy lying on ground about six feet away when carelessly pumping cartridges from a .22 caliber rifle into the ground.

Injured another hunter when he shot at a rabbit which the victim had killed and was in the act of retrieving. The offender and victim were not more than fifteen feet apart.

Gun discharged when hunter slipped while walking about twenty feet in back of another hunter.

Gun discharged while pumping shells. The pellets bounced off the ground and struck another hunter about eight feet away.

Single barrel hammer gun discharged while crawling under barbed wire fence. Its owner suffered the loss of all the fingers on his right hand.

Injured another hunter while unloading his gun which was pointed directly toward the victim.

Stumbled in brush while aiming at rabbit, discharged gun and hit another hunter.

In anxiety to kill pheasant, discharged gun in direction of fellow hunter a short distance away.

Shot at wounded raccoon and struck foot of another hunter about three feet away.

While hunting in pursuit of a groundhog about five feet from another hunter, tripped on grapevine and discharged .22 rifle, hitting other hunter in leg.

Discharged a 30/30 while attempting to rise from kneeling position after shooting deer. Had gun in left hand, which he was using to support himself. Finger was on trigger and pressure discharged gun injuring companion about ten feet away.

Discharged gun while walking through brush, wounding himself in the left shoulder.

Hunting under the influence of liquor.

Gun discharged after fifteen year old lad reloaded it—shot struck and injured father.

Discharged hammer gun when taking it down from his shoulder—gun was pointed at another hunter about twenty-five feet away.

Did not place gun on "safe" after shooting at rabbit. Had finger on trigger and accidently discharged gun, hitting companion about thirty feet away.

*Rights-of-Way*—The Commission approved a right-of-way for the West Penn Power Company to construct and maintain an electric transmission line across State Game Lands No. 179 in Greene County.

*Refuge and Other Projects*—The Commission appended a list of all Primary State Game Refuges, Cooperative Farm-Game Projects, Auxiliary State Game Refuges—General Classification, and Special Preserves as a part of the Minutes, and classified its procedure for handling such projects so that the official records will be kept current at all times and that the establishment, reduction, enlargement in size, elimination of any of the projects, or the disposal of buildings no longer needed in the administration thereof, may receive prompt consideration.

*Refuges Abandoned*—Abandonment of the following Refuge Projects was approved: Primary Refuge No. 508, Lycoming County, containing 1,785 acres; Primary Refuge No.

(Continued on Page 31)

# 40,000. RABBITS

(From Page 25)

difference between the two totals represents the cost of additional traps and crates that will be available for next season's trapping.

Because of deep snows practically all winter, rabbit drives on certain large areas were impossible except in a few instances. This means that nearly all of the 40,000 rabbits were taken in box traps using parts of apples, carrots, other vegetables and prepared rabbit chow as bait. Some rabbits were caught in empty traps because they were either curious, seeking shelter from the cold, or were attracted by the rabbit odor in the trap. Approximately 20,000 traps were used at one time or another throughout the State. Deep snows forced many of the men to dig out their traps quite often.

If our greatly reduced personnel with the assistance of sportsmen and youth groups are able to trap 40,000 rabbits during a winter when deep snows and gasoline allotments restrict travel, what may we expect when we have a full complement of field officers after the war, and more young men and sportsmen are able to assist with this work? We should be able to obtain around 75,000 fine home-grown bunnies for stocking purposes annually if everybody will cooperate.

Of course we shall never be able to prevent all gardens from having some damage by rabbits, neither shall we prevent some rabbits from being killed in cities and towns by dogs, cats and automobiles. But since the beginning of the rabbit trapping program, rabbit damage has been materially reduced. Each season there are less telephone calls and letters of complaint received from various parts of the State. Besides reducing the damage to gardens, the thousands of native rabbits trapped in cities, towns, parks, institutional grounds, watersheds, military reservations, railroad yards and other protected areas are excellent for restocking purposes.

Sportsmen may be interested to learn that among the other game and furbearing animals trapped and transferred this past fiscal year there were 1821 ringneck pheasants, 11 bobwhite quail, 374 gray squirrels, 8 woodchucks, 127 muskrats and 40 raccoons.

Many people, especially boys, are becoming more conservation conscious through their participation in a statewide outdoor program such as rabbit trapping.

If you, Mr. Sportsman, or you, Boy Scouts of America, wish to appear on the stage next winter when the curtain rises in Pennsylvania for the opening act of "Rabbit Trapping," consult your local district Game Protector regarding an appointment as a trapping agent. There will be no magical pulling of rabbits from hats, but you will have an opportunity to experience the thrill of removing the bunnies from traps and knowing that they will be released on areas where our returning veterans will have an opportunity to "catch up" on some of the recreation they have missed during the past few years.

Photo by Leo A. Luttringer, Jr.
**Little fellows like these play havoc with Victory gardens.**

# Backyard Adventures With Wildlife

(From Page 26)

The adult of the aphis-lion is the lace-wing fly, a greenish, lacey-winged, golden-eyed insect. It is common everywhere. To me, its most outstanding characteristic is its disagreeable odor. So much as touch it and you will be able to detect the smell even after several scrubbings with soap and water.

We are acquainted with but a small part of the earth and its denizens. The common everyday things about us are lost in that maze we call familiarity and we seek afar for the very things found at our own doorstep.

The song of the wilderness thrush is no more wonderful than that of the one that has regaled me with its mellifluous notes from the green depths of the lone sour cherry tree in back of the garage, yet we rave about the ethereal this and that of the wilderness songster.

All this is mindful of the married man at a summer resort who encountered a neat little number on the hotel veranda while indulging in a last cigar before retiring.

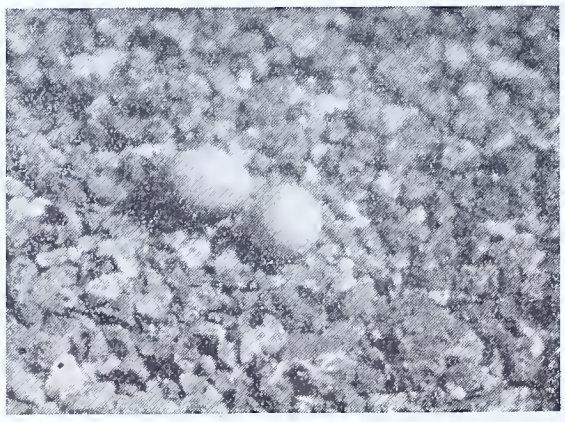
"Where have you been all my life?" he inquired in modernistic wolfesque as he surveyed the glamorous woman.

"Why, just three doors below you," tittered his neighbor whom his wife often called the plain Mrs. Wren.

The lament is often heard that America has lost its frontiers; that man can no longer delve into what he considers the wonders and mysteries of the unknown. Paradoxically, the frontier of our backyard with its myriad mysteries remains largely unexplored because of man's requirement that things to be explored should be mysterious and unexplorable.

Superficially my own backyard consists largely of grass, shrubs and trees, components to be found in countless similar areas throughout the land. However, probing the familiar beauty of the surface will uncover mysteries that would take a lifetime to solve.

Certainly, we need the stimulus of the wilderness spaces—to taste the salty sweat as it pours down one's face on a hard portage; to smell the tang of pine and spruce in the distilling heat of a midsummer day; to hear the sonorous roll of the drumming grouse on its log in the heart of the wildwood; to see the serrated edge of spruce horizon cut through a multi-colored sunset. These things and many more should serve as a tonic in stimulating our interest in the so-called commoner things closer home.



Photos by W. L. R. Drake.
**The roof of the Telegraph Press Building, Harrisburg, where Game News is published, was the setting for this domestic scene. Mother Nighthawk laid her two eggs on the gravel roof as usually is her custom in towns and cities and proceeded to hatch two fluffy youngsters, one of which can be seen in the photo on the right. She was absolutely fearless and permitted the photographer to come as close as two feet in order to take stills and color movies. Sometimes she would slip off the "nest" and scoot away dragging her wings and feigning crippledness in an effort to draw the intruder away.**

## Retriever A Big Hunting Asset

*(Continued from Page 27)*

been asking for guns that shoot harder, shells that kill at longer distances and repeating shotguns so we can get at least three shots into a flock. Yes, there are even Magnum guns to reach out and extend the killing range of the 12 guage. All the emphasis has been on methods to increase our game kills, and drop birds at greater distances.

If we devoted just one fraction of the interest exhibited in better guns and long range shells to the cause of saving game with hunting dogs, millions of birds would be recovered each fall and go into the game bags instead of being wasted. The job waiting for the duck dogs is a tremendous one in itself, with a chance for the retrievers to cut down an annual loss that is somewhere in excess of 6,000,000 birds.

After the war we are expecting a big boom in dogs due to the wonderful work that certain breeds are doing on the battlefronts. How about all of us getting together in the postwar period and tackling this humane job of getting those cripples by putting more dogs to work in the field and marshes?

Photo by W. L. R. Drake.

**While walking around a field near his home at Spring Run, Nelson Hammond found a small groundhog nearly dead from exposure. He took it home and the Hammond cat promptly adopted it. Baby whistlepig is a constant source of surprise to its foster mother who doesn't seem to know what to make of the grass nibbling habit and large size of her adopted offspring.**

# HORSE AND BUGGY DAYS

*(From Page 28)*

removal. Permit me to say that I look back in the retrospect with a sigh of regret. Their passing on took with them the merit of their day. Again they may be needed to serve, as all wise conservationists realize that wildlife conditions does not remain static.

In conclusion permit me to reminisce regarding their locations and my experiences in the wild rugged country involved in their makeup and surroundings.

Number 19, located on leased lands in Wyoming County, now abandoned and its old refuge keeper gone to the Great Beyond, was one of those established in the wildest and most rugged of the wilderness surrounding. Many was the times that I followed the rugged pathway around the refuge and through the interior, as I made my periodical inspection patrols and sometimes assisted the refuge keeper with his work. I often paused to drink in the glory of this great wide open stretch of wilderness, lying on the topmost portion of the most northernly end of the North Mountains. Visions I would have, yes, visions in picture of the fashioning of this grandeur in the countless ages of Nature's handiwork. Much of this splendid wilderness is now owned by the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Only a few of these large refuges remain in their original form. Number 15, now 515, located in Potter County, retains its original 3434 acres under wire. Number 1, located in Clinton County and the first established in 1905, has been reduced in size. Likewise, the first one established on State Game Lands, number 25 has been reduced and generally adjusted to meet present conditions. There are others that could be mentioned, but since this information suffices to illustrate, there is no need to further identify them.

Many of the old sportsmen, whom I used to meet, and many that I did not meet, who used to hunt in the vicinity of these large refuges, must likewise regret their passing on. They served their purpose, as did their keepers, and now you no doubt look back in the retrospect, to the Horse and Buggy Days of the Game Refuge System in Pennsylvania.

# Transactions of Commission's Meeting

*(From Page 29)*

**Game Protector Leroy Gleason, Jersey Shore, trapped this bear near Waterville in early May. R. L. Sinsabaugh is shown releasing the animal on State Game Lands.**

522-D, Union County, containing 667 acres; Auxiliary Refuge—General Classification, No. 138, Bensinger Township, Elk County, comprising 300 acres; Auxiliary Refuge, General Classification No. 92, Hopewell Township, Bedford County, comprising 1,240 acres; Cooperative Project No. 35, Fayette County, containing 6 farms totalling 391 acres; and Cooperative Project No. 56, Bucks and Lehigh Counties, containing 52 farms, totalling 1,835.1 acres.

*Refuges Reduced*—The Commission approved the reduction of Primary State Game Refuge No. 516-A, in Shippen Township, Tioga County, at present containing 3,970 acres to approximately two-thirds of its present size.

*Refuge Enlargement*—A 35-acre refuge located on State Game Lands No. 188, Beaver Township, Snyder County, was enlarged approximately 100 acres.

*New Refuge*—A new Primary State Game Refuge of approximately 40 acres was established within State Game Lands No. 194, Perry Township, Snyder County.

*Dog Training Preserve*—A Dog Training Preserve containing approximately 1,000 acres was established on the Tiadaghton State Forest in Brown Township, Lycoming County. It was heretofore known as the Black Forest Grouse Trial Area, and includes a portion of abandoned Game Refuge No. 507.

*Land Purchases*—A number of land purchase matters were discussed and two options were accepted, one of 423 acres connecting with State Game Lands No. 13 in Sullivan County, another of 76 acres joining State Game Lands No. 152 in Crawford County. Counter offers were made in several instances and a number of options were rejected.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

*(Continued from Page 14)*

Special Committee of the International Association of Fish and Conservation Commissioners in Convention assembled on this 6th day of June, 1945, at Chicago, Illinois,

1. That the Congress enact a revised Coordination Act which would assure adequate biological planning coincident with the engineering planning.
2. That after the impoundments have been created that they be administered by the State or States in which they are situated so far as appertains to hunting and fishing in such a way that they will yield the highest returns for fish and wildlife.
3. That the reservoirs be open to public use without charges for hunting, fishing, and other recreational uses, other than those imposed by the State, except for such refuges and special restricted areas as may be necessary for the proper protection of these resources.
4. That no leases be granted for agriculture, cottage sites or otherwise which would give to any individual or group of individuals the exclusive right to take or prohibit others from taking a resource that belongs to the whole American public—fish and game.
5. That no action be taken which would permit employees of administering agencies to hunt and fish in areas closed to the general public.
6. That ready access to and exit from all areas be provided.
7. That the wildlife management of areas having particular value and so located that they will round out the National waterfowl management program be turned over to the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service, provided the appropriate State agency shall first have been consulted and its consent obtained.
8. That no use of any area be permitted which is inconsistent with the laws for the protection of fish and game of the State in which such area is situated.
9. That the Corps of Engineers of the War Department, the Bureau of Reclamation of the Interior Department, and other Federal agencies which construct water impoundments look to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the various State Fish and Game Departments for guidance in the administration and management of the fish and game resources created through their activities; and provided that any harvesting of wildlife and fish shall be under the management and control of the State Game and Fish Department in which the reservoir and its lands are situated.

---

**Through an oversight credit for reproducing the article "The Use and Care of Binoculars" should also have been given the Journal of Forestry.**

---

## Soil Conservation Commission Established

*(Continued from page 16)*

Members of the State Soil Conservation Commission are: Miles Horst, Secretary of Agriculture, chairman; James A. Kell, Secretary of Forests and Waters; S. W. Fletcher, dean, School of Agriculture, The Pennsylvania State College; Frank W. Gorham, Wysox, Bradford county; member of the executive committee, State Council of Farm Organizations; H. E. Roper, Kirkwood, Lancaster county, president of the State Soil Conservation Association; and E. M. Shaulis, Hollsopple, Somerset county; president of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Federation.

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

## OFFICIAL 1945 OPEN SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS

**(All Shooting Hours Based on Eastern War Time)**

Open season includes both dates given, Sundays excepted for game. **On November 1 no hunting of any kind before 9 A. M.** With this exception, shooting hours daily are **8 A. M. to 6 P. M.**, except from July 1 to September 30 inclusive, 7 A. M. to 8:30 P. M. (See separate summary for Migratory Game hunting hours; also see Special Regulations for hours to set traps in open counties.) Raccoons may be hunted at night, with a noon-to-noon daily limit.

| UPLAND GAME (Small game possession limit two days' bag) | Bag Limits Day | Bag Limits Season | Seasons Open | Seasons Close |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ruffed Grouse | 2 | 8 | Nov. 1 | Nov. 30 |
| Quail, Bobwhite | 4 | 12 | | |
| Hungarian Partridges | 2 | 8 | | |
| Wild Turkeys (See 7 counties closed)* | 1 | 1 | | |
| Ringneck Pheasants, males only | 2 | 8 | | |
| Rabbits, Cottontail | 4 | 20 | | |
| Squirrels, Gray, Black and Fox | 6 | 24 | | |
| Squirrels, Red | Unlimited | | Nov. 1 | Sept. 30, 1946 |
| Grackles (commonly called Blackbirds) | Unprotected | | until September 30, 1946 | |
| Hares (Snowshoe Rabbits) | 2 | 6 | Dec. 17 | Jan. 1, 1946 |
| Raccoons, by individual or hunting party* | 4 | 20 | Oct. 22 | Feb. 1, 1946 |
| Raccoons, by trapping (Statewide)* | | | Nov. 1 | Feb. 1, 1946 |
| Woodchucks (Groundhogs) | Unlimited | | July 1 | Sept. 30 |
| Bear, over one year old, by individual | 1 | 1 | Nov. 26 | Nov. 29 |
| Bear, as above, by hunting party of three or more | 2 | 2 | | |
| Deer, male with two or more points to one antler (Statewide), also antlerless deer in that part of southeastern Pennsylvania designated* | 1 | 1 | Dec. 1 | Dec. 15 |
| Deer, as above, by hunting party of six or more | 6 | 6 | | |

**NO OPEN SEASON**—Sharp-tailed Grouse, Cub Bears and Elk.

**MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS**—(Seasons fixed by Federal Government. For species and regulations see separate summary.)

**FUR-BEARERS**—(See note under Special Regulations)*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minks, Skunks and Otters* | Unlimited | Nov. 1 | Feb. 1, 1946 |
| Muskrats (By traps only)* | Unlimited | Dec. 1 | Feb. 1, 1946 |
| Beavers (By traps only)* | 2 | Feb. 15 | Mar. 1, 1946 |
| Opossums | Unprotected | until September 30, 1946 | |

### *SPECIAL REGULATIONS

**Turkeys**—Counties of Clarion, Forest, Jefferson, McKean, Snyder, Tioga and Warren closed.

**Raccoon Hunting**—The season begins at noon on the opening date, and ends at same hour on the closing date.

**Raccoon Trapping**—Traps not to be placed before 9 A. M., on the opening date (see instructions below concerning lifting traps on closing date).

**Deer, Southeastern Pennsylvania, Combined Season**—Both sexes, spike bucks excepted, may be killed in the counties of Lancaster, Chester, Montgomery, Delaware, Philadelphia and Bucks, also those parts of Dauphin, Lebanon, Berks, Lehigh and Northampton Counties lying south of U. S. Highway Route No. 22, during the regular season without special permits. A hunter may kill only one deer and the regular hunting party limit applies.

**Beavers**—Statewide trapping permitted, except where dams are posted by Commission. Non-Residents may not trap beavers. One person may set, tend or operate 10 traps only. Traps must not be placed closer than 15 feet from the waterline on any established beaver house. Trappers are required to keep tags above ice or waterline to facilitate identification without disturbing traps. Pelts must be tagged within 10 days after season, and may not be sold or otherwise disposed of until properly tagged. Present them to Protector in District or County where trapped.

**Trapping**—Traps for fur-bearers and raccoons not to be placed before 9 A. M. on Nov. 1 or before 8 A. M. on any later opening date for trapping. The season on the last date indicated for trapping closes at 12 o'clock noon to permit removal of animals caught on the last night of the reason and lifting traps by daylight.

**Snares**—No counties open to use of snares.

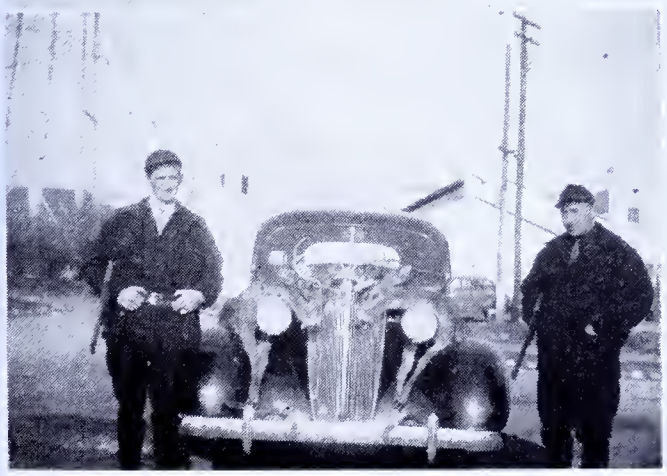
(AS FIXED BY COMMISSION AT MEETING ON JUNE 28, 1945)

**The photos in the opposite layout were all submitted for publication within the past several weeks. In looking over them our photographer noted errors in composition that are common to all snapshots. With the idea of helping to improve not only the quality of future contributions to the magazine, but the contents of their owner's albums, our photographer offers his impressions of them.**

**Top left: Not bad, a nice bear, a clear photo that will reproduce clearly. Top right: Good photo of feeding shelters but men should have been grouped on the sides so that they could be recognized. Center left: A poor background. Not only does the pelt of the animal blend into the man's clothing, but the large tree in the background looks as if it is sprouting from his head. Center: Here half the picture is foreground, and the deer has lost part of its antlers. By moving a few paces to the right the windows of the house would not have been directly in back of the deer, thereby improving the background. The windows detract from the main object being photographed. Right center: This picture could have been improved by moving back a few steps to take in the entire deer. Bottom left: Here is an ordinary photograph of a dead deer with a house in the background. Apparently there is some very fine action going on in back of the tree. I believe the lady is helping to hang up a bear or another deer. See if you can figure it out. The whole action should have been close-up. Bottom right: The edge of the building sticking out in this picture does nothing to improve its composition. The photographer could have moved to the left and made his photo of the deer hunters with a woods background. Top left: This photo should never have been taken with the deer so close to the pole. Center: A nice clear deer photo but the background detracts from the main subject. Perhaps a hunter or two would have helped create more interest. Top right: This is evidently a poor photographic print. The hunter and bear are almost silhouetted against the white door. It will not reproduce so the hunter will be recognizable.**

**Center left: How much better this would have been if the pole did not attract the eye. Center right: Here a contrasting background would have improved the finished result. Bottom left: Background again. The deer blend with the car and there are too many unrelated objects in the distance that catch the eye. Bottom right: Had this photo been taken closer the point of interest would have been better. The building in the background would have been partially eliminated and the snow bank in the left front foreground would not be so prominent. Dark spots on the snowbank attract attention as they look like additional pelts scattered around.**

# PICTORIAL



PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

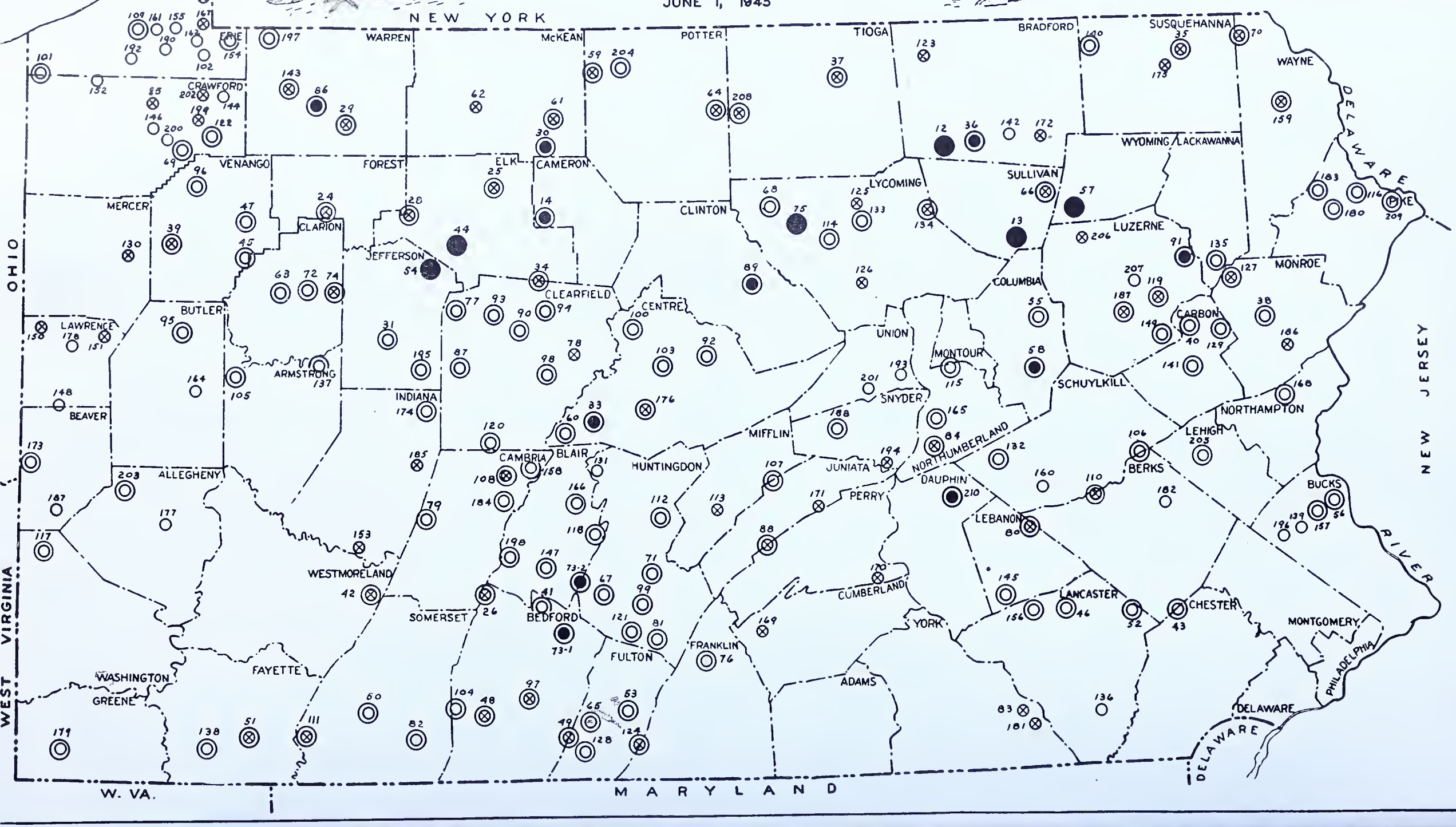
DISTRIBUTION OF UNIT BLOCKS

OF

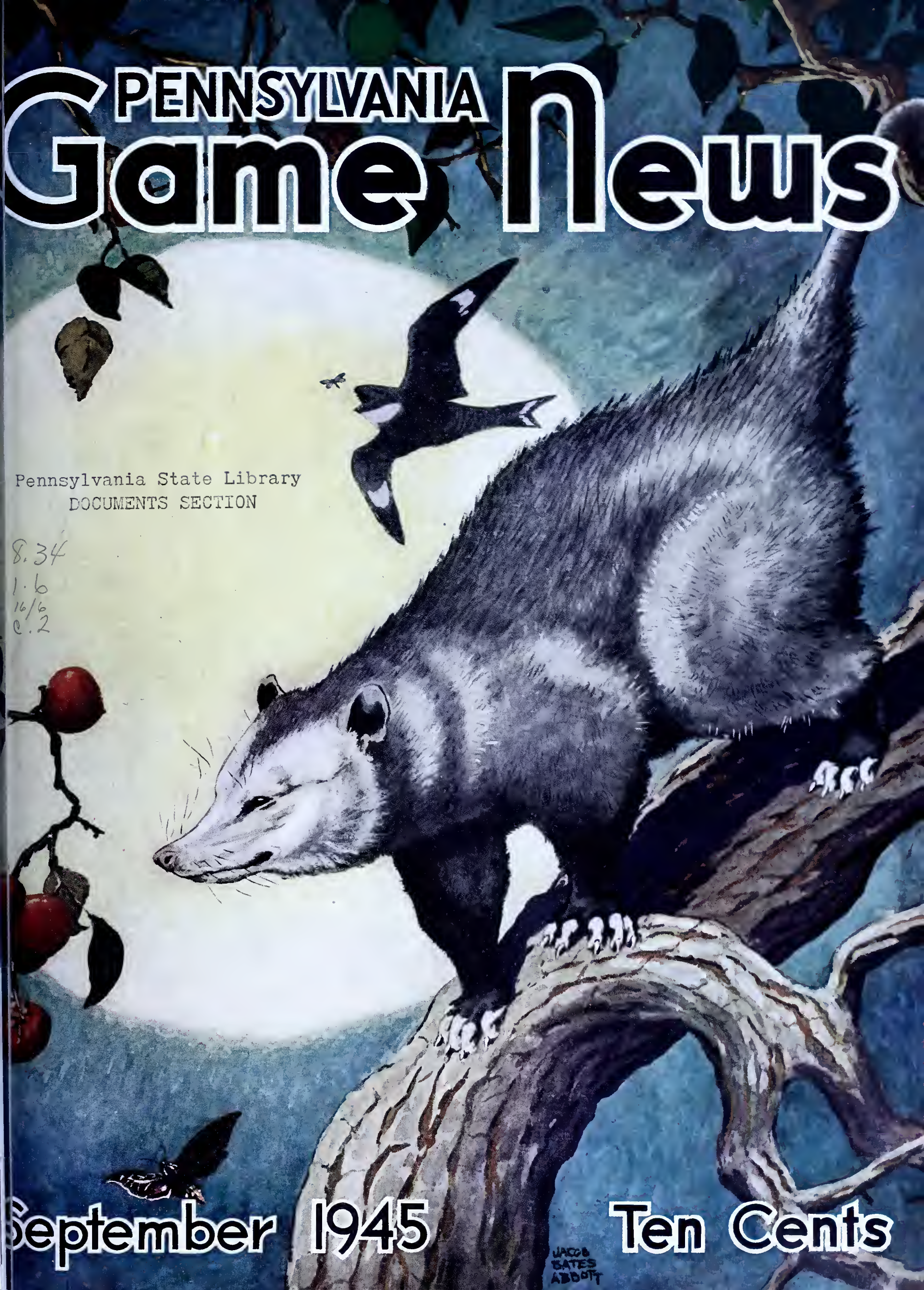
# STATE GAME LANDS

JUNE 1, 1945

| SIZE OF UNIT BLOCKS | NUMBER OF BLOCKS | % OF BLOCKS | ACREAGE | % OF ACREAGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| LESS THAN 500 ACRES | 25 | 13.3 | 6686 | .85 |
| 500 TO 1000 | 27 | 14.4 | 19076 | 2.45 |
| 1000 TO 5000 | 85 | 45.2 | 214832 | 27.48 |
| 5000 TO 10,000 | 35 | 18.6 | 255101 | 32.65 |
| 10,000 TO 20,000 | 10 | 5.3 | 123350 | 15.78 |
| OVER 20,000 | 6 | 3.2 | 162571 | 20.79 |
| TOTAL | 188 | 100.0 | 781616 | 100.00 |



# PENNSYLVANIA Game News




Pennsylvania State Library
DOCUMENTS SECTION

8.34
1.6
16/6
c.2

September 1945 Ten Cents

# PENNSYLVANIA GAME NEWS

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION, HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

EDWARD MARTIN, GOVERNOR

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

Ross L. Leffler, *President* ..... Pittsburgh
Robert Lamberton, *Vice-President* ..... Franklin
Col. Nicholas Biddle ..... Bethayres
G. I. Phillips ..... Alexandria
Harold Moltz ..... Williamsport
Dr. H. E. Kilgus ..... Brockway
John C. Herman ..... Dauphin
Dr. Carl B. Rosenkrans ..... East Stroudsburg

Administrative Office

Seth Gordon ..... *Executive Director*
R. A. McCachran ..... *Assistant Director*

Division of Lands

W. Gard. Conklin ..... *Chief*

Division of Accounting & Budget

N. E. Slaybaugh ..... *Comptroller*

Division of Public Information

Leo A. Luttringer, Jr. ..... *Chief*
*Editor*, Pennsylvania Game News

Training

W. M. Cramer ..... *Supt. Training School*

Bureau of Field Operations

Division of Law Enforcement

W. C. Shaffer ..... *Chief*

Division of Land Management

James N. Morton ..... *Chief*

Division of Research
(Vacancy)

Propagation & Distribution

Earl S. Greenwood ..... *Acting*

Field Division Supervisors

Division "A"—M. J. Golden, 602 Penn Ave., West Reading, Pa.
Berks, Bucks, Chester, Dauphin, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon. Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, York.

Division "B"—Jay C. Gilford, Wyoming Ave. and Welles St., Forty Fort, Pa.
Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming.

Division "C"—Thomas F. Bell, 352 E. 3rd St., Williamsport, Pa.
Bradford, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga, Union.

Division "D"—William J. Davis, 327 Penn St., Huntingdon, Pa.
Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry.

Division "E"—M. E. Sherman, 1 E. Du Bois Ave., Du Bois, Pa.
Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, Potter.

Division "F"—Hayes T. Englert, 14 W. 1st St., 2d Floor, S. S. Oil City, Pa.
Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, Warren.

Division "G"—Rollin Heffelfinger, 405 Main Street, 2d Floor, McClellan Bldg., Irwin, Pa.
Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, Westmoreland.

## HOW TO SUBSCRIBE

RATES—$0.50 per year to residents of Pennsylvania, regardless of address. $1.00 per year for Non-Residents of Pennsylvania. (Out-of-State, District of Columbia, Canadian or Foreign.) Club rates are available to organizations presenting 10 or more subscriptions in a single order. Remittances by check or money order to be made payable to the Department of Revenue, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. CASH FORWARDED AT SENDER'S RISK. STAMPS NOT ACCEPTED. Your local Game Protector, County Treasurer or other Hunting License Issuing Agent will take your subscription; or you may forward it direct to the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.

Please report all changes of address promptly, sending both your old and new addresses.

Please address *all* communications to the Editorial Office.

Publication office, Cameron and Kelker Sts., Harrisburg, Pa.

Executive and editorial office, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.

Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, under Act of March 3, 1879.

Permission to reprint will be granted provided proper credit is given.

Mailed in conformity with P.O.D. Order No. 19687.

VOL. XVI, NO. 6

# EDITORIAL

September, 1945

## IN THIS ISSUE

"Pappy's Ghost Talks Enforcement"
By W. C. Shaffer

★

The Farm-Game Program
By Seth Gordon

★

Timber and Game
By Harold Titus

★

How Others Are Doing It
By Wilbur M. Cramer
and
Leo A. Luttringer, Jr.

★

A Human Tragedy
By Lanse McCurley

★

The Monument
By Eli Waldron

★

The Training Program

★

To A Duck Hawk
By Talbott Denmead

★

Well, What's Wrong?

★

Cover of Opossum

By Jacob Bates Abbott

## *Good Game Management Is Just Good Farming*

WHAT KIND of hunting season will we have this year, next year, in the future? Will there be as much game for the eager nimrod of the future, or will the supply be limited?

Man, himself, is largely the answer to both questions.

Good hunting depends primarily upon the natural production of wildlife. To produce, wildlife needs food, shelter and water. Without them all restocking of game has only temporary value.

There is only one permanent solution—soil conservation and improvement of wildlife habitats.

The quality of the food, cover and water which give wildlife its opportunity to live and reproduce is determined by the fertility of the soil and its use. Soil, to produce a good game crop, must be rich in food elements such as iron and nitrogen. It must have enough phosphorus and other minerals to grow bones and teeth and produce good blood so the animals living off it will be strong and healthy. In short, good game management is JUST GOOD FARMING.

The future of good hunting in Pennsylvania, therefore, resolves itself into the proper use of our soil. If our soil can be made to provide adequate food, cover and conserve water, nature will amply increase the game supply. If the wildlife of the Commonwealth can be given what it needs through good game management, the matter of harvesting the game crop through the wise application of proper seasons and bag limits will become a comparatively minor problem.

An Act of the 1945 General Assembly provides for the establishment of County Soil Conservation Districts where Boards of County Commissioners pass a resolution to that effect upon the request of farm landowners of the county. Such districts will operate under a County Soil Conservation Board of five, including one member of the Board of County Commissioners. The other four are chosen by the County Commissioners from at least eight farmers nominated by delegates appointed for the purpose by agricultural organizations of the county. This county board elects its own chairman.

The most effective procedure for acquainting the people in a county with the steps necessary to effect the organization of a County Soil Conservation District is for the local board of County Commissioners to call a public meeting at which representatives of the State Commission will be present to explain the law and answer questions.

Want better hunting? Then let's increase wildlife by doing all we can to increase the carrying capacity of our hunting lands by restoring soil fertility—by WISE FARMING, by prudent forestry, and by establishing Soil Conservation Districts. The responsibility of this job does not rest with the farmer alone. You can help the landowners in your vicinity—by suggestion if you are not a farmer, by example if you are—to apply approved soil conservation practices. This will provide more and better food, cover and water for wildlife. Not only that, it will provide better conditions for domestic livestock, and make Pennsylvania generally a better place for people to live.

Photo courtesy of George A. Smith, Quarryville, Pa.

**Hummingbird**

# "PAPPY'S GHOST TALKS ENFORCEMENT"

By W. C. SHAFFER

ON THE nineteenth day of this month, exactly twenty years ago, a funeral cortege slowly wended its way through the meadow, up the hill to the edge of the big beech woods. It consisted of a half dozen close neighbors, seven hound dogs, and a limited sprinkling of relatives and children. Solemnly, they paid tribute to the old gent and slowly lowered him into the earth.

Pappy Ellis had succumbed to pneumonia—contracted while out huntin'. To make certain he would be warm enough, they put on his red flannels, and his heavy black suit. Buttoned shoes, mind you, replaced his hunting boots. A neat pile of rocks marks the spot!

Anybody that thought Pappy was a dummy was just plum crazy. True, his education was about equivalent with those of his day and age, but in the woods and along the streams he possessed a knowledge not to be excelled or equalled in that country.

Yes sir, the elderly gentleman had plenty of vices. He liked wine, women and song, but would have preferred to exhange the wine for some "hard licker," anytime. When you make your own, sometimes blackberries are in season long before the ripening of the rye. In his earlier days he was quite a Beau Brummel in "these parts" and used to spark many a farmer's daughter, till Grandma finally got a hold on him. I never could quite figure out why she married him, but she probably had her own reasons.

He only worked as the notion struck him. Planted a few crops himself and "hired out" the rest of the time—when he wanted to work. He had been known to cut corn for a neighboring farmer for three days and then drink it straight for five. Pappy had probably spent more time in front of bars than most criminals have spent back of them.

Possessing only the best and the most hounds seemed to be his main objective in life. Quicker than the bat of an eyelash he would spend five dollars for a promising pup, even though the same sum would have bought a much more needed calf. Eight to ten hound dogs always laid around the house and yard. Believe me, when I say that they got the preference of everything.

A highly combustible temper, coupled with a lightning fast and acid tongue, seemed to round out this six foot one mountaineer, who weighed less than a hundred sixty pounds. Some of the neighbors said he wouldn't weigh that much soakin' wet, even if he fell in the creek. Judging from pictures, I am inclined to believe the neighbors. None denied that he was the toughest man in that country to follow in the woods.

November was a nasty cold month, twenty years ago, and Pappy was not in the best of health. A bad cold had kept him indoors quite a bit, beside the log fire and his jug. Either the jug or the fire had worked wonders for him, because one morning he announced in terms, none too uncertain, that he and two of the hounds were going a fox chasin'.

Nobody ever questioned him, not even Grandma, and when last seen was entering the woods, shotgun in hand, both hounds well out in front.

A day and a night had passed and Pappy failed to return. This was not unusual since he often spent two or three days in the mountain, only to return to his modest homestead with a nice bag of small game or a deer.

Grandma, so they tell me, was more than relieved to see her spouse return on the morning of the second day—but with only one hound. "Trim" was missing. The coffee pot was put to boilin' and as Pappy muttered and swore intermittently, the household soon learned that his favorite hound chased a fox in the rocks, and got fast. Anyhow, Pappy couldn't recover him when he was ready to go home.

His affection and devotion to all of his dogs was far superlative to that accorded some women by their husbands. It must have been, for he told "Ma" to "Hurry up the coffee, I got to go get that lost hound."

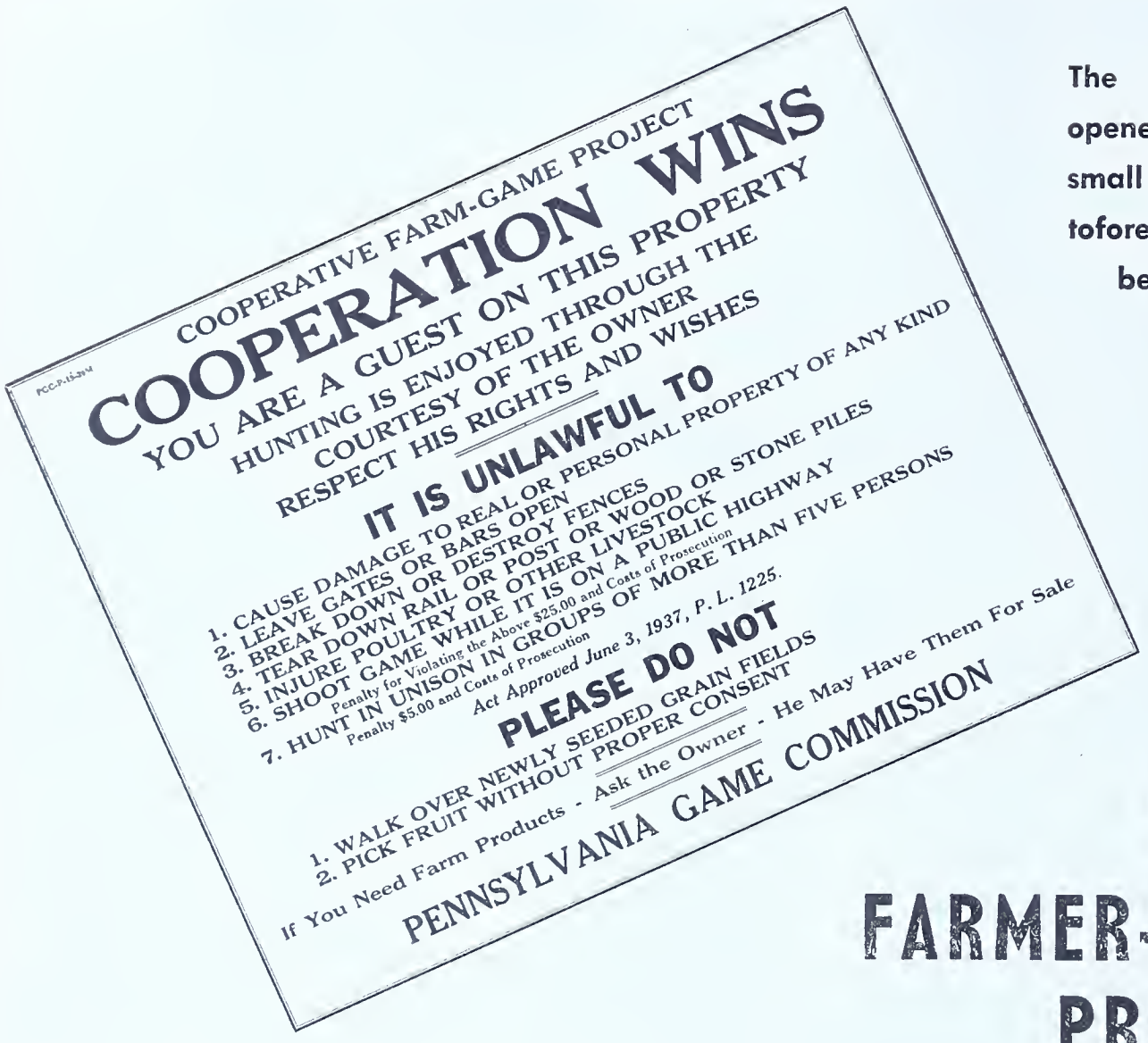
Pappy never went for the hound. He died two days later, after he had extracted solemn promises from all present that they would bury him where he believed his beloved hound had died. And they complied with his last request to the exacting letter.

It was late in the afternoon on this gorgeous autumn day when I decided to renew my respects to my departed ancestor. I, too, walked across the meadow, and up the hill to the edge of the big beech woods. There was the pile of rocks just as they were placed twenty years ago. The long fall shadows cast themselves through the gloriously colored trees. Out of deference to the old gentleman I sat down on a larger pile of stones, but a short distance from the unlabeled tombstone.

Darkness continued to fall as I leaned my elbows on my knees, hands crossed and outstretched, pondering what Pappy would be doing if he were here today.

A warm, wet solution greeted my right hand. My body chilled instantly—hot and cold flashes reached my brain, intermittently. Yes, the little beads popped out on my brow,

*(Continued on Page 25)*




**The Farm-Game Program has opened up thousands of acres of small game hunting territory heretofore closed to shooting. It will be expanded in the future.**

Reprinted from
*Pennsylvania Farmer*
October, 1944

# THE FARMER-SPORTSMAN PROGRAM

FARMERS are the most friendly, neighborly people in the world. I know, because I grew up on a farm, and often wish I could still live there. Times have changed many things—present day motor travel, for instance, has brought us blessings and conveniences. It also has produced problems.

We formerly knew all our neighbors intimately. Today too often we know only a few of them well. And rarely do we have even a speaking acquaintance with dozens of people who come into our community to hunt, or fish, or picnic, or just to enjoy a trip through the beautiful countryside.

One of the chief problems of the Pennsylvania Game Commission has been to create and maintain friendly relations between sportsmen and landowners, particularly in agricultural sections near centers of population, where the need for healthful outdoor recreation is always great.

Perhaps there never would have been a problem on this issue if all hunters had respected the rights of landowners. But the old story of a few thoughtless people making it tough for everybody else prevails in this case as it has in others. As a result thousands of acres of good hunting territory have annually been posted to trespassing, as one farmer after the other resorted to this means of protecting his livestock, poultry, fences and other property against those who often have no knowledge of the farmer's many difficulties.

### In 27 Counties

In some parts of the state today no trespass signs are probably more prevalent than ever. But in others, due to the efforts of the Game Commission, and especially to organized sportsmen's associations, they are gradually giving way to cooperative programs developed for the mutual interest of both farmers and hunters.

Probably the first local major step taken to establish more friendly terms between the sportsman and the landowner was the Commission's Farm-Game program. This project, developed in 1936 in four counties, provided for leasing the hunting rights on groups of contiguous farms where public shooting was permitted and where safety zones were established and well posted. Each

**Farmers are the most friendly, neighborly people in the world.**

## BY SETH GORDON*

project was also patrolled regularly during the hunting season to maintain law and order. Each cooperating farmer was paid for any grain that he planted or left standing at the Commission's request for game food, and for other activities necessary to improve wildlife conditions in the area. The Commission's Farm-Game program met with such enthusiasm by farmers and sportsmen alike that it was soon expanded to twenty-seven counties.

Later a complementary program known as the Special Wildlife Refuge plan was initiated in various parts of the state, only these projects were sponsored by local sportsmen's organizations instead of by the Commission. Through this medium the sportsmen and the farmers were able to become better acquainted and to understand better the problems and attitudes of each other.

Aside from these two major attempts to improve relations between the two groups, many local sportsmen's groups worked up their own projects. Some of these projects comprised a great many activities, others only one or two. Some were established on a year-round basis, others purely seasonal. To mention any specific club out of the eight hundred in the Commonwealth would not be fair to the others. Therefore, in a general way let us review in the aggregate some of the gestures these clubs have made in behalf of their rural friends.

### At Business Meetings

A number of sportsmen's associations have given free membership to farmers living within a certain radius, and have special functions such as picnics, luncheons, etc., for them and their families. The farmers were also invited to express their opinions at business meetings, and to bring their problems before the organizations. These friendly overtures on the part of the sportsmen did much to promote a greater understanding between the two groups.

Out of these cooperative meetings came the idea for Farmer-Sportsman Federations and many were organized throughout the state. These clubs enabled the farmer and the sportsman to iron out difficulties which arose between them, and to unite their efforts in the common causes of both.

Clubs have purchased and erected thousands of safety zone posters around buildings and grazing fields. Under the protection of the safety zone, many farmers had no objections to hunters on their lands, and thus were opened many acres of land hitherto posted against trespassing.

Many sportsmen's groups distributed pamphlets and literature to farmers and vocational agriculture students as part of the program to build up a stronger alliance between sportsman and farmer.

### Rights of Landowners

Lest the hunter forgot his obligations to the landowner, several organizations posted signs notifying hunters from other counties that they were welcome as long as they "lived up to the code of the sportsman." They also posted other notices, reminding all hunters to be true sportsmen, above everything, by respecting the rights of the landowners and obeying the game laws. Posters appealing to gunners not to hunt on any land without first asking permission of the owner also did their bit in keeping farmers on good terms with sportsmen.

The sportsmen's associations did much to educate the thoughtless hunter and to put a stop to damage done by non-sportsman hunters.

By club law, some of the sportsmen's groups expelled members who violated fish and game laws or the property of the farmers on whose land they hunted. Many organizations also included rules which compel members to ask permission of the farmers to hunt on their lands.

Sportsmen's organizations in some areas have constructed steps over fences on farm lands, so that the hunter or angler could just walk over the fence instead of scrambling over or under it. These steps benefitted the farmer whose fences they spanned by facilitating his crossing them from one field to the other, and they saved his fences.

### The Flushing Bar

In view of the fact that many nesting quail and ringneck pheasants were "cut to pieces" by mowing machines, some of the organizations bought flushing bars and presented them to farmers. When the dangling chains of the flushing bar strike the tall grass, the mother birds are given warning and are able to take wing before the mower passes. This shows the farmer where the nests are located, and he can mow around them, or raise the cutter bar, and save the lives of countless birds.

For this reason, the farmers took an in-

(Continued on Page 31)

Carelessness with firearms has been one feature that makes the farmer skeptical of the average hunter.

The flushing bar is a saver of nesting birds.

By recent Commission action this program will later become available to all counties where good general crop farming territory is near heavily populated areas where a considerable portion of the lands are posted against hunting.

* Executive Director, Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Photo Wisconsin Conservation Department.

Though the ruffed grouse, drumming here on a log, is considered a forest bird, he needs the open, too, if he is to thrive. Abundance of game isn't characteristic of the deep woods.

# TIMBER AND GAME

## *Twin Crops*

### By HAROLD TITUS

***Reprinted by permission American Forest Products Industries, Washington D. C.***

IN THESE few pages we are going to look at American forests—past, present and future—with our sights particularly trained on game birds and animals naturally associated with them.

We are going to touch on a few of the mistakes man made, from the point of view of wildlife welfare, in his use of the abundant forest resources he found on the continent.

We are going to deal with the gearing in of forest product and game interests and discuss some of the practices in both fields which are already yielding fruits for the nature lover and sportsman.

And perhaps, along toward the end, we'll get our courage up to a point where we'll try to forecast what may happen if understanding of both forestry and game management continues to generate momentum as it has in the recent past.

That, then, is something in the nature of a declaration of intent.

*Must Forests Remain Untouched?*

When we—especially those of us who are sportsmen—remember that our founding fathers discovered that nearly one half of what is now the United States was forested, and when we realize that much of our virgin timber has been cut, that this harvest has accelerated, even in times of peace, and that vast areas of second growth timber probably will be operated about as fast as it attains commercial size—why, we're apt to despair.

We are apt to despair because we—at least too many of us—still entertain the idea that to have abundant supplies of those birds and mammals which associate with forests, those forests must remain untouched by man.

This is one of our most popular misconceptions. Mature, dense stands of timber in large blocks make happy homes for almost none of those species of major importance. In his most noteworthy volume, "Wildlife Conservation," Ira N. Gabrielson, Chief of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, points out the utter lack of game birds and animals in many of the virgin timber stands of the Pacific Northwest and cites the paucity of game sign in old stands of hardwood timber on the other upper corner of the country. Dr. Gabrielson holds that such deep woods are much nearer the status of biological deserts than are some of our southwestern areas which geographers classify as actual desert land.

Our forefathers did not find game everywhere in the primitive forests they explored simply because most game species cannot exist, let alone thrive, in deep woods. The long record of frontiersmen with the know-how of living off the country who perished of starvation in the unspoiled wilderness attests to that. Towering trees offer no forage for browsing animals, such as deer. The fruits and nuts their high tops may produce are available only for brief periods annually and, for most species, are only items in a diet, anyhow. The shade created by a dense canopy, combined with the demands made for nutrients and moisture by their interlocking root systems, discourages the growth of low plants which might render sustenance to animals. Such forests offer but one of the many things game needs and that is shelter—shelter from extremes of weather and from enemies.

*Game Seeks Forest "Edge"*

Where, then, were the storied herds of deer and elk and moose located? Where did pioneers find the wild turkey and ruffed grouse and other life forms which enlivened the landscape and contributed to their food supplies? They found them just where the sportsman finds them today and no doubt always will find them: along and near the forest edge; in and about forest openings. Where outcroppings of rock made dense stands of great trees impossible and permitted ground cover to thrive. Where glaciers had put down moraines of lean soils so that forests, luxuriating on the richer plains, were interspersed by fingers of smaller and more varied growth. Where clearings created by fire started from lightning remained in grasses, scrub and shrub. Where marshes intruded on tree associations. A long list of species had to have forests to survive, mature, remain robust and multiply, yes; but those creatures had to have openings along with those forests or they faded from the picture.

Those openings make what technicians call "edge", and edge, in this sense, is something more than just a border. Wildlife authorities such as Aldo Leopold, professor of game management at the University of Wisconsin, rate the amount and type of edge as one of the great determining factors in game abundance. It isn't only food which is offered by edge. Birds and mammals, just as other life forms, cannot live by bread alone. They must have more than food and shelter to remain healthy, happy and therefore able to reproduce their kinds. Fawning time for the whitetail deer is fly time in the woods, and their young need relief from these pests, just as does domestic stock, so the bald ridges and open flats which give wind a chance to disperse clouds of insects are necessary. The areas on which mating rites are performed by some species have rigid specifications. Opportunity to go through those ceremonies is of first importance. As an example, recent studies of the woodcock indicate that, unless openings suitable for use as the timber doodle's singing grounds are available, populations trend

*(Turn Page)*

Photograph by H. Armstrong Roberts.

**Bruin likes the woods for their shelter and protection. But he likes the open, too, for there grow the berries he loves. Progressive loggers follow methods that provide these openings, yet leave protective trees. Game management and timber management go hand in hand.**

Photo by Philip Gendreau.

**Towering trees offer no forage for browsing animals, and deer will soon exhaust the feed in a forest. They seek "edge," where grass and other vegetation grows in profusion.**

rapidly downward. The list of imperative needs supplied by this condition we call edge could be expanded much further but perhaps the point is established: that openings furnish all manner of requisites which unbroken forests never can offer.

So when the white man appropriated America, consciously or unconsciously, and so long as he was in forested areas, he took the flesh he consumed by grace of forest openings. We are not here concerned with the vast herds of buffalo nor the pronghorn antelope of the Great Plains; nor are we dealing with the involved subject of waterfowl nor the upland species such as prairie chicken which thrived in extensive native grasslands. We are sticking to types of game which demand forest growth as a component of habitat.

Now, what man did by way of altering that balance of forest and opening is history. Plenty of it, in the light of today's understanding of game needs alone, was shameful; but, at the same time, some of it happened to fill so completely the needs of game that it formed rough patterns which, refined and developed, we are following currently and seem destined to follow far into the future—provided we are smart enough to learn from experience.

One of the first activities of our ancestors here was to create clearings in the forest, for home, farm and village; and wherever a clearing was made there was new and man-created edge for the birds and animals of the vicinity. Nesting sites, food supplies, mating and playing and resting places that never before existed began to dot the map, with dense woods always adjacent for shelter and escape. That was all to the good.

But when, as forest products came into greater demand, those clearings spread and multiplied and came together and over wide areas stands of thick timber became things of the past—why then our supply of forest openings became too much of a good thing. Our edge was no longer present. The shift from deep woods to choppings was complete. In county after county and state after state the game environment was completely out of balance.

Where the land thus stripped of its natural cover was suitable and needed for agriculture or any other sound social purpose there was of course justification for such a radical altering of the landscape. But where the land was neither suitable nor needed for a new and specific use, such exploitation we now agree was shortsighted and wasteful. The practice of the times was to walk off and leave the choppings and let fire run which killed off the seed trees and baked the fertility from the soil itself. The only excuse of course is that with normal pioneer enthusiasm for the opportunities of the moment and facing a continent so rich in natural resources we thought there'd be enough to last everybody forever. We just didn't know any better.

*Pioneer Traders Found Little Game*

No more did those pioneers realize what they were doing *for* game and forests in those few regions where deforestation was neither so rapid, complete nor permanent. The disastrous mistakes of the past have had plenty of well deserved attention. The fortuitous happenings as increasing population put most of the country to use, however, have often been neglected.

It is interesting and enlightening to study the diaries of certain old fur traders who were in many instances a century or more ahead of the loggers' axes. Michillimackinac —Mackinac Island, perhaps to you—was one of the great fur depots before and shortly after 1800. From that headquarters on the strait between Lakes Michigan and Huron, brigades dispersed north and west and south in search of peltries. Many of those which went west proceeded up the St. Mary's river to Lake Superior and then coasted along what are now the boundaries of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

These traders lived largely on the country, but until well toward the western extremity of this great inland sea they ate fish almost exclusively. The pineries, swamps and hardwood stands which cloaked the shore were silent places. Repeatedly in accounts of those treks we find notations of daily fish catches and then, indicating the unusual, comes the entry stating that deer or moose were seen.

An occasional moose and a stray deer, then, in that wilderness in 1800. But since the 1890's that same Lake Superior shore has been a stamping ground for thousands of deer hunters annually. Without interruption it has yielded its tons of venison each autumn, some seasons more, some less, but always enough to entice hunters back.

It was not happenstance that deer moved into this region when they did. It is happenstance, however, that they have persisted. The deer appeared when loggers made openings in those virgin timber stands and deer have continued in more or less abundance because the timber harvest followed a distinctive pattern.

The variety of forest types has been mentioned. The pineries were the first to fall, and considerably later than those to the south because they were remote from markets. As a forty or a section was logged, edge appeared where no edge had been; in time the few deer in the vicinity found those edges, established themselves and began to multiply, no doubt far faster than they had in the scattered natural openings.

Next, the great pines which grew in hardwood stands were taken. This made innumerable smaller openings, which spread the deer far in small nodules of seed stocking. Following this came need for hemlock

and the number of clearings increased. Lastly, uses were found for the birch, maple and beech but it was not so steady a demand. It fluctuated with the fortunes of the industries using those woods. The pine and hemlock had built homes, barns, factories; the hardwoods went into equipment and implements, were not used in such bulk and were subject to a more variable need. An operator might cut a dozen forties one winter, twice or thrice as many the next and thereafter be down to small or no production whatever for several years. The harvest of swamp timber followed similar ups and downs.

As a result, the region was in timber production far longer than most others. It is still producing. Demand for the land for agricultural or other intensive uses was not uniform. Some of it is excellent for specialty crops but large outlets never were near, the season is short and consequently clearing for plows was spotty and relatively limited.

Because of these circumstances what, in 1900, say, was a pine chopping bordered by virgin hardwood could, if it escaped fire, be a thrifty young pinery in 1925 when the hardwood was coming down. At no time since logging began has the area been without many stands of timber sufficiently dense and extensive to afford retreat for deer and also adjacent to those openings where their other demands may be met.

Deer populations have changed and shifted as this combination of edge and forest crept from here to there. In periods, local deer abundance has dwindled but they've always been somewhere in the vicinity, with changes in numbers, true, but never so low that they failed to lure hunters.

Deer, then, followed the axe in the Lake Superior country but the story doesn't end there. Perhaps nowhere else is there an area of comparable size and with such a range of forest species where the pace of lumbering has shown so many changes. We'll be coming back to it when we get to this matter of managing forests so that yield may be perpetual, and the effects such practice can have on game supples.

### *Quail Prefers Open Spaces*

It was not only big game and not mammals alone that were spread about and increased in numbers by the clearing of forests. Take the case of the biggest yielder of all our native game birds—the bobwhite quail.

Today, on the northern portions of his range, we rightly class this bird as a farm-type rather than a forest-type species. Originally, he was a woods inhabitant but the edge he required consisted of many and very definite types. Some old records seem to indicate that the more rigorous the climate, the more exacting he was about his edge specifications. So, in what are now the central and northern states, those combinations were relatively rare until the white man took over. Pioneer agriculture was right up bobwhite's street to a happy home. Its grains fitted his diet list nicely. Tangles of low growth along rail fences made exactly just the hiding and nesting places he liked best. Brushy pastures with closely grazed grass plots between clumps of bushes were another made-to-order part of his environment.

So when great-grandfather hacked out his homestead near an established quail population, that population swelled because the habitat could carry more individuals. And when other settlers came to set up more farms the coveys spread over the land and the years until they seemed to be everywhere.

The change came when agriculture became more efficient and took on the first manifestations of streamlining. The rail fence gave way to wire and the broad band of rank vegetation which had bordered earlier fields shrank to a thin ribbon. Bushes were ripped from pastures so more forage plants could grow. Woodlots were eliminated or else the ground cover in them was reduced by pasturing. The grains and bugs man had brought to the wilderness were there in ever increasing quantities, but without other necessary factors quail passed the peak of their abundance in many sections and dwindled as the last square yards of neglected acres were put to man's rather than the bird's uses. There will be more to say about quail in the deep South a little farther on.

Is it clear, then, that the manner in which man handles his forests has much to do with the quantity and distribution of those game species which depend, in part, on forests? Their populations can be stepped up and given wider range if forests are managed with at least part of an eye to game values.

### *Harvests Aid Life in Wilds*

Perhaps it is now in order to examine briefly how man can use those game resources and still anticipate a continuing supply—as we are now realizing that it is possible to use our forests and still retain them.

Just as we erred when we believed that game was all over the place when forests were untouched, so are we mistaken when we assume that if hunters were removed from the hazards to wildlife then there would be no limit to the wildlife populations.

If a forest is let alone by man and manages to escape the menaces of wind, fire, pests and disease its individual trees mature, die and fall without serving any purpose other than enhancing the landscape—important but not always paramount. A forest, then, to serve man best, must be cut. In the light of current attitudes toward natural resources it is scarcely necessary to point out that we no longer encourage or condone that type of cutting which leaves the land barren but are following programs in all

*(Continued on Page 28)*

**Here is ideal country for game and timber. Yet it has been logged. The clump of old-growth at the summit of this hill was left to reseed the harvested slopes. This is the result of block cutting.**

# HOW OTHERS ARE DOING IT

By WILBUR M. CRAMER and LEO A. LUTTRINGER, Jr.

*Photos by Russell Martin, Superintendent Michigan Conservation Department's Training School.*

Superintendent Russell Martin in his living quarters at one end of the staff building.

THE Michigan Department of Conservation has added another milestone in its program of youth education and training.

It was the privilege of the writers to have visited their training school to observe its operation and functions during the week of August 6. We came away with the realization that the Pennsylvania Game Commission is in some instances even better equipped to carry on such a program, and that it should be a major consideration when planning youth conservation movements in the future. Pennsylvania sportsmen, too, can take a leaf from the books of the Michigan United Conservation Clubs and think seriously about sponsoring similar camps. Such an undertaking would be an excellent project for 1946.

This summer over 200 boys between the ages of 14 and 17 years were guests at the Michigan Conservation Department's training school situated on the shores of Higgins Lake in the northern part of the State. The method by which the boys were selected to attend the school was unique, and the credit for the innovation was due largely to the far-sightedness of the Michigan United Conservation Clubs and the Detroit Sportsmen's Congress which sponsored the undertaking.

The boys were selected chiefly by merit. Some organizations held essays and birdhouse building contests; others held scrap card paper drives—whatever competitive programs they felt would work out most advantageously. Counselors from among the Federation were chosen to assist with the program and help maintain discipline.

The Conservation Department limited the period for handling the boys to three weeks to see how things would pan out. The cooperating sportsmen's associations paid for their board and lodging, which amounted to $4.50 from Monday evening supper to and including Saturday morning breakfast. These rates are regularly charged to Junior clubs.

The wide and interesting diversity of the program which the staff at the training school had worked out for the boys made discipline simply a routine event. The fact that a group of 70-odd lads from all parts of the State, few of whom had ever seen each other before, and a great many of whom had never been to a camp before, succeeded in getting along so well with each other that they parted good friends is the best tribute which can be paid those responsible for the program.

The program was well varied to prevent monotony, yet none of the subjects was stinted. Each group of boys was split up into different competitive groups such as the Beavers, the Wolverines, etc. Each day was set aside for one particular study—one day was Fire Prevention Day, another Outdoor Day, one a Game Day and another Land Use Day.

On Fire Prevention Day the boys were taken to a nearby forest fire experiment station where they were shown forest fire fighting equipment, including a large plow and tractor, a rotary plow, various water tanks, pumpers, etc., and taught how to operate them. They also received instruction in fighting forest fires. All of the outdoor

Conservation officers and N.R.A. officials taught the boys how to handle firearms.

classes and demonstrations were observed with tremendous interest and orderliness.

On Outdoor Day the boys were taught boat and canoe safety, how to make camp and build campfires, what kind of clothing to wear in the woods, interesting trail lore, etc. There was a discussion on fish foods and cover, followed by a search by the boys for aquatic insects in a nearby stream. Firearms demonstrations during which safety practices and woods courtesy in the use of firearms also were stressed.

Two field trips were the highlights of Game Day. After a lecture on making a deer census drive, the boys were taken on an actual drive to see how it was done. They also visited prairie chicken booming grounds, ruffed grouse and sharptail grouse areas, and a beaver dam.

Land Use Day began with a field trip on farm, forest and recreation land to study land use, and to Higgins Lake State Forest to study forest production and related uses. Afterwards the boys were told about fish and fish management practices. All of the week's activities and studies were made more interesting by little competitive contests between the different groups, and awards were given the winning group of each contest. This stimulated attention and kept the boys on their toes.

Through the cooperation of the National Rifle Association a representative spent the whole three week period in the camp teaching the boys how to handle firearms. Many of them had never held a gun in their hands before. However, they were quick to learn, and through the excellent coaching of the NRA representative and several conservation officers many of them won certificates for proficiency on the rifle range.

At the conclusion of each day's program, and just before dinner, the boys were permitted a swim in the crystal clear, cool waters of Higgins Lake, the sandy beach of which tapers gradually for about one-quarter mile without getting more than waist deep. In the evening some boys went on the range, others played ball, pitched quoits, etc., until class time. Evening classes were devoted almost entirely to illustrated lectures, all of which were most interesting. One evening's program included a discussion on Law Enforcement by one of the Michigan Conservation Officers.

No doubt because of its numerous fishable lakes and streams, fly-tying was by far the most popular of all the scheduled events, and the conservation officer in charge did double time during the whole course of the encampment. Some of the boys were at it before breakfast and had to be chased out of the screen-closed veranda of the recreational building at bed-time.

While the school is primarily a training institution for Michigan conservation officers, it is made available to many other groups and is operated the year around. During the summer months of 1945, the following groups are scheduled to attend their school:

Geology Division, Dept. of Conservation
Lands Division, Dept. of Conservation
Radio Technicians, Dept. of Conservation
State Oil Board
Sportsmen's Institute
Conservation Committee—Dept. of Public Instruction
State Purchasing Department
Teachers' Non-Credit Conservation Course

*(Continued on Page 29)*

**Instructions were given in canoe handling and other aquatics.**

**Fly-tying attracted a lot of the youngsters.**

**Forest fire equipment was demonstrated.**

# A HUMAN TRAGEDY!

By LANSE McCURLEY*

*Illustration by*
*Jacob Bates Abbott*

AS A sports editor for years the endless parade of youth in training and competition has passed before my eyes and engaged my attention and interest and the ever increasing wonder to me is why the public schools throughout the length and breadth of the land do not incorporate fishing or hunting or both in their curricula of after class activities, if indeed, it would not pay them to have regular classes and courses in the two.

I've watched star after star leave high school and college and go into the world of business and wage the fight of economics and grow soft of muscle and yielding of will and bereft of personal discipline because the sports he played with others as part of this team or that were no longer his to enjoy.

To play football there are eleven men needed on each side and two sides needed for a game and the gathering requires organization and time and equipment and opportunity. These are no longer as easy for him to find as they were when the old man was paying the bills and life was classroom and campus life. Baseball takes nine men to a team, basketball five, and teams must play teams.

The risk of injuries are great in football, the most popular school and college sport of all, and the meets are far between for boys who have won their letters in track.

Few towns and cities have rivers for crew. And besides crew is strenuous and demanding.

Young men fighting for a place in the business world cannot take long weeks and months to train for something that returns only medals and headlines. They cannot risk the broken legs and collar bones of the football field. They are headed ninety-nine times out of one hundred for one great group—the group of spectators. No longer can they afford to be participants.

And here is where hunting and fishing come into their own. A man can get his car or catch a train and take his rod and reel to the lake or stream or ocean and wet a line all by himself in perfect pleasure and enjoyment. He can shoulder the old scattergun and tramp the fields with the undeniably fine companionship of a dog. He can go into the deer woods in the winter when the snows catch the shadows of the tall pines or he can wallow in the fragrance of the high grass when summer's hot suns bring out the wily woodchuck.

There is no time in the entire sequence of the seasons when the rod and gun cannot be used and the wine of the outside move the red blood within him, and the reliance and confidence that are his heritage from a long line of pioneers reawaken to the call of the woods and the music of the streams.

In other words, if taught to know and use the woods and streams, never again would he be at loss for exercise and recreation because the time available to him was not available to many others.

The other sports are great builders of men and no one can deny the remarkable place they rightly occupy in the life of school and college, and out of school and college, as well. But they end too soon for the average man, they stop too suddenly for the average boy, they furnish a need and provide an outlet and then they stop. Too often the aggressiveness that goes with them, and is such an integral part of them, stops with them. They will grow as the muscles grow soft, not because the gridirons and diamonds and rings fail, but because the economic pattern of the world today is not made to allow for continued dalliance in the more popular sports.

But with a gun and a rod there is open an endless world of different sights and scenes and adventures. There is offered the relaxation of the far places and the challenge that nature once made so strongly to primeval man that it still echoes in his subconscious and awakens as strong as ever when given the chance.

The cathedral of the forest and the palace of the pines are ever within reach for brains tired of figures and eyes worn by buildings and horizons bound by factories and offices.

It would be a simple matter to install a course in hunting or fishing or both. It would have endless value because it would teach reliance and thus inspire confidence, for one goes with the other, and boys would be safe with guns and able to keep afloat in the water and alert to weather changes and understanding of their immediate needs.

Most important to the young fellow leaving school would be an interest that would grow the greater with the leaving of school and economic growth instead of leaving him altogether or descending into the poverty of vicarious enjoyment alone.

The woods and the streams demand no record performances, raise no issues of victory or defeat, strain not the heart or the mind, but rest and relax each. The values of the open would never be lost and waist would stay trim and minds would keep keen and tempers would hold even. The cost—a gun will last a lifetime, so will a rod and reel, the woods are close to all, the lake or ocean is never far away, the time is what you have to spare not what you must take.

There is no season—all seasons are yours. And this is why every father should see that his son grows up with something he can cherish and benefit from all his adult life as well as during his formative years.

It is one reason for the great popularity and importance of the Boy Scout movement. It is unfair to a boy to teach him in school only activities of physical nature which must stop when the time comes to go out into the world and enter business.

It is decidedly unfair—it is unjust and it is unnecessary. And I wonder as I see the stars of the gridiron and the greats of the diamond and the stalwarts of the crews win and lose for year after year in school and college and then—stop.

It is a tragedy.

**In the October or November Issue we hope to introduce two new features — one on dogs, one on guns.**

***Watch for them!***

*Sports Editor, *Philadelphia Daily News.*

# THE MONUMENT

By ELI WALDRON

MRS. HOOKER was glad when noon came. The morning had dragged slowly even though she had put up clean curtains and given the settee a thorough brushing. Now the hands on the clock pointed at the ceiling and she was glad that the morning had finished with the business of being morning and had put on the long clothes of afternoon.

She went to the bedroom window that overlooked the garden, but Henry wasn't there. He had finished putting in the onion sets, she noticed, and rolled up the marking lines and laid them on the grass.

"Should have known," she said, with a smile, and she went to the sunroom and saw him then in his customary place beneath the oak tree. He was sharpening a sickle with the little stone he always carried, and when she rapped with her finger he nodded without looking up, spat, put the stone in his pocket and stood up. A little stiff getting up.

They ate without any talk because, after fifty—that is, forty-nine—years, there wasn't any need to be talking much. Anyway, they were both thinking the same thing and thinking about it in more or less the same way. In forty-nine, fifty years, you get to have the same ideas on most subjects.

His good blue suit, then, he put on, and when he called, "Ma," as he always did, she went in and fixed his Odd Fellows pin. The clasp was worn and it wouldn't stay on just right. She had been fixing it for him ever since she could remember.

She dressed next, in the green dress with the white flowers she had bought when she was installed as secretary of the guild. After that, she and Henry went into the living room to wait.

"Two o'clock, did he say?" Henry asked.

"That's what he said." She took the letter from the desk top and walked with it toward the settee, holding it in both her hands. "I'll read it again."

Henry came and sat beside her.

It wasn't a long letter. There was a seal and a date and, "Dear Mr. and Mrs. Hooker." Then the part that began: "In honor of your grandson, William T. Hooker, who died for his country, an appropriation has been made for a monument to be placed in your city . . ." There was another paragraph about times and places of William T. Hooker's service, and finally: "I would like to call on you this coming Wednesday afternoon, both to renew our old friendship and take you to see the memorial before it is brought to Lynwood. It's not far, and there may be some suggestions you would like to make . . ."

The letter was signed: "Senator Roy E. Everett." Mrs. Hooker pronounced the name carefully as she folded the paper and put it back into the envelope.

"Roy Everett," Henry said reflectively.

"*Senator* Everett."

"I dunno," Henry said, rubbing his chin. "I dunno sometimes. He used to be a pretty nice fellow, Judge Everett, before he got into these politics. Now it seems he's like all the others, throwing money right and left for monuments and what not . . ."

"It's not *throwing* it away, Henry," Mrs. Hooker protested mildly. "It's not exactly that."

"And another thing, Bill isn't the only one not coming back. There was others. Good boys."

"He explained that," Mrs. Hooker said. "Bill was . . . well, he was the first. It's for the others, too. All of them. It's . . ." But her voice caught and she stood up and put the letter back on the desk.

Behind her, Henry went on with: "I'm not so sure Bill would like the idea himself. He wasn't much for show . . ." But the words came indistinctly to her ears and she found herself staring through the archway, through the sunroom window, at the oak tree where Henry had been sitting.

It was Bill's tree, too, as much the boy's as his grandfather's. It was a warming place for both of them, a returning place. There they had sat in many suns while Henry had instructed the lad who was his grandchild in the ways of Indians and the ways of birds, showing him the proper way to sharpen a knife, the proper way to make a whistle, the proper way to live . . .

The oak tree was Bill's tree; he was like the oak growing. When he was a Boy Scout he wrote an essay called The Oak Is the Best Tree There Is. She still had it. He liked things made of oak and was so ready, any time, to praise its virtues that the fellows sometimes kidded him about it. It was funny how boys grew and grew and grew . . . and then died.

Maybe a fancy monument *was* a waste of money. She could see Henry's point of view: it brought no one back. But it wouldn't do to make a fuss about it now. The first tearing hurt was gone and perhaps the granite and bronze, or whatever it was, would help

*(Continued on page 24)*

Photo Pennsylvania Dept. of Forests and Waters.
**The Witness Tree, Donegal Presbyterian Church, near Mt. Joy, Pennsylvania, is a living monument.**

# RECOMMENDATIONS ON TRAINING PROGRAM

*(Based Upon Suggestions Submitted to Commission by Its Employes and Others Interested, and Revised on May 5, 1945.)*

NOTE: The Recommendations on Acquiring Lands which appeared in the August issue were also approved May 2, 1945. Incidentally, the law has been changed since these recommendations were submitted so that cooperators on Farm-Game Projects may now retain trapping privileges.

**GENERAL POLICY**

**Background**—The Commission's first training efforts consisted of a conference for Field Officers held in Harrisburg in the summer of 1920. In 1923 they were again assembled for three days at the Crystal Springs Club, Clearfield County. Thereafter conferences were held annually at various points (except during 1926, 1928, 1929, 1931), until the present Training School Program was started July 31, 1932. Under the conference plan the groups were too large, the average three-day period was entirely too short to undertake a real instruction program, it was necessary to bring all officers to a central point at the same time, and the cost was out of proportion to the benefits derived.

The Training School was started as an in-service training institution for its regular employes, and buildings which were embodied in the purchase of State Game Lands No. 54, near Brockway, Jefferson County, were utilized. (The present inventory value of the Training School property is $26,380.00). Six one-week classes were scheduled between July 31 and September 11, 1932, and included all Field Officers. A like plan was followed during the years 1933 to 1935 inclusive.

Early in 1936 the Commission authorized the establishment of the Training School on a more permanent basis, both for officers in the service as well as to train prospective employes for its field service. Rigid entrance examinations for student officers were required, and the old system of filling field vacancies by competitive examination for each position (started June 1, 1924) was discontinued. The first class of 35 students was enrolled July 2, 1936; the second of 28 on June 20, 1937; and the third of 27 men on June 7, 1941. From the three classes 76 men were graduated and assigned to field duty. The enrollment was from eight and one-half to nine months for each group, which period was equally divided between classroom and field training. Of the 76 graduates, 68 are still in the Commission's service, although 40 of them are temporarily with the military forces. These figures clearly prove that our trainees stay with the Department by preference.

During 1937-39 inclusive, in-service courses from two weeks to a month were offered to the Field Officers on a voluntary basis, but since then no such training classes were held due to conditions beyond the Commission's control.

**Courses of Instruction**—Prior to the establishment of the Training School, the courses of instruction were largely confined to general lectures on the various activities of the Commission. When the Training School was established in 1932, the in-service training course consisted primarily of the Game Law, legal procedure, land acquisition, refuge management, game propagation, predator control, revolver instruction and self defense, and various other topics which were believed desirable.

When training prospective employes began, the course of instruction was materially broadened to include available information on the latest known methods of game management and research findings, with emphasis on public relations and preparation of reports. The course for student officers included simple military drills, regular physical instruction, revolver and target practice, and self defense. The instructors included employes regularly stationed at the School, staff heads in Harrisburg, and specialists in various related lines of conservation and police work from other State Departments, educational institutions, etc.

In the beginning of the training program a majority of the officers requested more instruction in law enforcement, but as the program developed many more requested the latest land management techniques and practices, research findings, and courses in practical biology. Each group was requested to comment on the course of instruction and offered suggestions for the improvement of future courses.

**Results Obtained**—Since the training program started in 1932, the entire organization has been much better equipped to discharge the multiple duties which now confront conservation officers, also to render outstanding public service in cases of floods and other disasters. The student officers who have graduated from the School, in the main, have given a much better account of themselves than men formerly employed under the competitive examination system inaugurated in June 1924.

**Other Training Activities**—A training program for prospective Supervisors was launched in 1940, to develop men who would be eligible to take competitive examinations when vacancies occur in supervisory positions. This program, as well as the regular in-service training courses at the School, was suspended due to the war and the consequent shortage of manpower.

An in-service training course for office employes was held during the winter of 1938-39, and Stenographer-Clerks in the Field Division Offices were given a brief program of training in Harrisburg this past summer. Short courses were also given during the years 1938-39 to small groups of selected officers to fit them for special investigation work.

| | Current Practices | Immediate Changes Recommended | Future Program Recommendations |
|---|---|---|---|
| **A. TRAINING NEW FIELD EMPLOYES** | Under the Law no Training School classes for new employes can be selected until six months after the war, because such enrollment automatically gives the enrollees merit system status if they complete the required course and render a year of probationary service satisfactorily. The program as now established has definitely proven its worth and classes should be enrolled on a comparable basis as additional trainees are needed. | None. | A training course of one year is recommended. Since it is not wise to enroll too large a group at one time it is now believed that the next student class should consist of not more than 28 men, or four from each of the seven Field Divisions.<br>It is not advisable to prepare complete requirements and qualifications very far in advance of the enrollment of a class, so that any changes in requirements should be deferred.<br>It is felt the compensation paid student officers in the past, namely, $2.00 per day, will be entirely too low to meet future needs, and it is recommended that this amount be very materially increased so that married men may be able to enroll for the course of instruction.<br>In accordance with the suggestions of the Secretary of the Budget, student officers both in the School and during their probationary period, should in the future be carried on the regular payroll rather than on per diem, so as to give them benefit of such service on their retirement.<br>It is recommended that a more fully qualified staff of instructors be used at the School in the future, headed by a trained, experienced educator who has the required administrative ability, supplemented by details of men from our own organization who are specialists in their respective fields with ability to instruct others. (In addition, supplemental instructors would be secured from other State Departments, State College, Carnegie Museum, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Soil Conservation Service, etc.)<br>Since the present Training School is so far removed from Harrisburg and is located in a climate where it is difficult to maintain demonstrations of certain plantings and food and cover development, the Commission should look forward to the possibility of relocating the Training School at a more advantageous point. Suggested sites to be considered are State Game Lands No. 145, at Mt. Gretna, Lebanon County, or State Game Lands No. 176, near State College. Both of these sites would be much more desirable from many standpoints than the present one. In the event the School is later relocated, the present buildings could be used to advantage under our proposed Conservation Educational Training Program. |
| **B. IN-SERVICE TRAINING** | The Supervisors have not received any in-service training at the Training School since 1935. | None. | Training field conferences at appropriate intervals throughout the year and at various places throughout the State are recommended.<br>Whenever possible after the Training School reopens, a special one-week training course is recommended on such subjects as employee management, public relations, conducting meetings, research activities, and various phases of modern game management practices. |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **2. Present Officers** | Discontinued due to war conditions. | Training field conferences at appropriate intervals throughout the year and at various places throughout the State are recommended. Harrisburg staff heads should conduct some of these conferences while others should consist of discussions on various field problems of the Game Commission, conducted by one of the officers of the Division. | Since the end of the war is so uncertain, it is recommended that the Commission refrain from scheduling present officers for in-service training until after our servicemen return to the vacancies now existing.<br><br>It is believed that all future in-service training should be mandatory, and scheduled at least every other year for a period of two weeks for each class, to bring present officers up to date with Commission activities. |
| **3. Returning Servicemen** | None. | None. | Since returning servicemen will have been out of touch with the work of the Game Commission, it is recommended, as rapidly as a sufficient number report for duty to justify opening the School, that they immediately be sent to the School for a minimum of three weeks of retraining in their work. |
| **4. Prospective Field Division Supervisors** | This program has also been suspended because of war conditions. | In case a vacancy in the position of Field Division Supervisor, only Trainees on the eligible list at that time shall be permitted to take the Supervisor's examination. It is recommended that the Commission now adopt a rule that any candidate for these positions who in the past failed, or who in the future may fail, to pass a minimum grade of 75% shall not be eligible to take a second examination for Supervisor until he has again attained eligibility in a succeeding examination for supervisory trainees. | It is recommended that as soon as practical after all servicemen have returned to duty, an examination be held for Trainees as prospective Field Division Supervisors, selecting one man from each Division to take this training.<br><br>It is recommended that the office management portion of the Supervisor Trainee course be conducted by the Division of Training at Division Offices, while the field training be under the direction of the Division Supervisors, as assigned.<br><br>To provide continuity to this plan, qualifying examinations should be given once a year until a maximum of four prospective Supervisors have been trained in each of the seven Divisions.<br><br>Consideration should be given to the plan of having a trained conference leader in each Division, the object being to assist the Division of Training to convey to the Field Officers such knowledge as they should have concerning the latest policies and operations. Supervisory trainees might well be used for this special duty. |
| **5. Office - In - Service Training** | In-Service training for Harrisburg Office employes was given in 1939 and a course is now scheduled for the fall and winter of 1944-45.<br><br>The Field Division Office Stenographer-Clerks were given a two and one-half day instruction course in Harrisburg in May 1944 to familiarize them with the duties of their positions and enable them to be of more assistance to the Supervisors. | None. | It is recommended that an office in-service training course be scheduled each winter, with the training of Stenographer-Clerks in Field Division Offices held every other year. When a new girl is appointed in Field Division Offices someone from the Division of Training should instruct her in her duties and see that she gets started properly in her new position. |
| **6. Technicians and Game Farm Superintendents** | Up to the present time training for Technicians and Game Farm Superintendents has been confined to conferences held at Harrisburg. | None. | It is recommended that these two groups of employes be given a week's course of training at either Harrisburg or the Training School once a year, securing the services of specialists from the Fish and Wildlife Service, Pennsylvania State College, and elsewhere as instructors. |
| **7. Staff Heads** | No special training has been provided. Staff-Supervisors' meetings have been held several times annually, which in part have been used for training purposes. | It is recommended that a special course be provided in the conducting of meetings or conferences, public relations, research activities, and various phases of modern game management practices so that the staff heads may be better fitted to coordinate their own work with that of other units, along defined lines in keeping with the Commission's program and policies. | It is recommended that the plan outlined in the preceding column be made a regular and continuing part of the general training program. |
| **8. Deputy Game Protectors** | In 1929 specially selected deputies were permitted to attend a state-wide field conference held on the military reservation at Mt. Gretna. In 1932 and 1933 two Deputy Game Protectors were selected from each Field Division to attend refresher classes at the school.<br><br>In the past some District Game Protectors have conducted deputy meetings and schools of instruction, but these have been discontinued for various reasons. | It is recommended that District Game Protectors resume deputy training conferences and make every effort to weld their deputies together into a unified well-trained group of auxiliary officers, some of whom would be eligible to take the examination for the Training School.<br><br>Expenses to such training conferences shall be borne by the Commission. | In addition to the district instruction conferences, it is recommended that when time permits specially selected Deputy Game Protectors be sent to the Training School for a one or two-week course of instruction in Game Law Enforcement, Land Management Practices, and related subjects. |
| **9. Leaders of Sportsmen's Groups** | None. | It is recommended that special training conferences be held either locally in various areas of the State or at the Training School for specially selected leaders of Sportsmen's Clubs so that these men may become more familiar with the program of the Commission and be better qualified to coordinate their activities with our programs. (These conferences could no doubt be patterned after the three-day courses in conservation which the State of Illinois has recently provided at their Training School for leaders of the Illinois Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs). | It is recommended that the plan outlined in the preceding column be made a regular and continuing part of the general training program. |

"I believe the last time I wrote you I was in Tehran, Iran. While in Iran I applied to attend O.C.S., and on December 31, 1944, I received orders to return to the states to go to school. I know there is no way I would rather have started the New Year than traveling toward the good old U.S.A.

"I traveled by air to Naples, Italy, with stops at Cairo and Bengasi. From Naples I was on a fast transport. It took eight days to reach Boston. It was an uneventful trip compared with that I had on the way over to Iran. On the way over I had a first-hand demonstration of the accuracy of the Jerry torpedo planes, just off the coast of Algiers, and I can assure you that a Liberty ship is much more comfortable than a lifeboat.

"Upon arriving in the States I had eight days in which to report to Fort Sam Houston, Texas, so I spent five of the shortest days of my life at home. I guess Shaffer told you of our meeting at the school. It surely was coincidence. The first Sunday at the school we had a real old 'gab' session. Bill Hodge and Bob Lichtenberger came down to see us. It was almost like a Division meeting.

"One day Shaffer and I were watching a new class march by, when he suddenly almost exploded as he recognized Trexler in the class. So you can see the Pennsylvania Game Commission was pretty well represented at the C.M.P.—O.C.S.

"After graduating I was assigned here in Atlanta, Georgia, where I work with the Provost Marshal and like it a lot. I had hoped for an assignment a little nearer home, but just to be any place in the U.S. is good enough for me."—Lt. Donald E. Miller, 1428 SCU Det. No. 1, Ft. McPherson, Ga.

---

"I'm writing to let you know I'm still intact, but it is no fault of the Jerry. He tried his best to scatter my anatomy all over this kroutland. All he succeeded in doing was to dissect my typewriter for which I shall never forgive him. I'm getting back at him now and am taking my bucket of blood in the form of trout and game.

"Now that the war is over I go hunting and fishing every chance I get. So far I've caught all the trout I can handle, two deer, and about 20 Belgium hares. The deer are very small, running anywhere from 40 to 60 pounds, and as for antlers, I have yet to see one with over four points. Even these have very small, scrubby antlers.

"The carbines we have bring them down in a heap with one shot. However, I think the .30 carbine is over-rated and would be useless on game in Pennsylvania. Sportsmen in Pennsylvania who are figuring on getting a carbine at the end of the Jap war will do better if they forget about the carbine as a sporting arm, for unless you are a crack-shot and place your shots in a vital zone it will not bring them down. Several of us proved this to ourselves when we went out hunting Belgium hares. The only time we stopped one cold out of ten was when we either hit them in the head, in the chest close to the heart, or some other vital organ. As a result my opinion of the .30 cal. carbine as a sporting arm for deer is very small."—Pvt. Frank J. Floss, Headquarters & Service Co., 624 Engr. Topographic Bn., APO 403, New York, N. Y.

---

"I am with Army intelligence and, as you know, that is interesting work—not too pleasant at times but nevertheless a little more exciting than holding down a seat in the House.

"I have done quite a bit of traveling since I came into the service. I spent 14 months in the 97th Infantry as a rifleman, and I've been in England, Italy, Hawaii, Australia, China, Burma, India, Iran, Iraq, Palestine, Egypt and all of North Africa. I've crossed both oceans, once each by air and ship, flew the Hump, and here I am back for the second time in the Philippines. Right now I'm ready to get back and spend my time in the Pennsylvania hills."—Lt. Burton E. Tarr, S.S. Flyaway, c/o Postmaster, San Francisco, Calif.

---

## A MAN-EATING TIGER IN THE BURMA JUNGLES

"The scene of this story takes place in the dense part of the Burma Jungles around a small landing strip of the United States Army Air Force and involves both military personnel and professional hunters. The scenery is very similar to the valley between Hollidaysburg and Bedford, other than the high mountain peaks in the background which are the beginning of The Hump.

"Have you ever gone through a monsoon? Well, we have, and it is most annoying. We are settled in a valley around which there is a river that flows as the Susquehanna in Pennsylvania does. After raining for about one month continually, the water rises at such rapidity that it washes out our bridges, pipeline, and all means of transportation other than our aircraft. Due to this surrounding water on all four sides we are also faced with another problem. Several species of game are encircled with us; however, a man-eating Bengal Tiger is our worst danger. After a tiger has eaten all the small game available, he has no substitute but human flesh. Let us call this animal which is the center of attraction 'Chief'.

"'Chief' became very bold and one night entered camp looking for a victim. He chose a colored lad of an Engineering Battalion as his prize. A leap from the door of the tent put him in such a position that he straddled the soldier and clawed him up enough to taste human blood. Luckily the big cat became frightened and departed about as quickly as he entered. We overlooked this incident as a minor accident and let it go as another unsolved jungle mystery, neglecting the fact that 'Chief' had tasted human blood.

"Three days later, an aircrew member flew in and due to bad weather was unfortunate enough to have to sleep in a transient bashe with no sides. By now 'Chief' had become more ravenous and considered the airman easy prey. Skilfully sneaking across the runway he again tried his luck. Leaping through the sides of the bashe he pounced upon his victim but the noise awakened several other men and they scared him away. The victim was clawed deeply on the legs and arms.

"We didn't consider this a minor infraction, but a burning desire to go after 'Chief.' After arranging to get a group of men together with carbines, tommy-guns and Garands we organized a hunt. Due to the area being only about three miles in area it looked like a cinch. The natives, which are called Bush-beaters, are a picturesque sight. They preceded us in the almost impossible job of breaking our way through the dense jungles. They are armed only with a machetti, which is about all their dress consists of except a small rag covering their bodies.

"The little men go through the jungles similar to the way we travel through the woods hunting or putting on a drive for deer. They holler and beat the thick underbrush in such a way that all of the game flushes. Finally, after about three hours of encircling, we heard our native scream 'TIGAH' and up flashed 'Chief'. He was in such a position that the nearest man would have to fire in a direct line with the hunters. It was our first good look at him. He was about 8½ feet long, could jump or leap a long distance, and had the sneaking ability to out-smart us and sneak into a denser part of the jungle.

"We continued our search and by tracking

him our natives led us to a clump of very dense undergrowth approximately 75 feet in diameter. Four men went in after him. A funny incident occurred which I think you'll enjoy. A colored engineer said, 'No sah, I'se not goin into that tigah until I done puts on my bayonet'. He wasn't afraid then. They went in to flush 'Chiefie', but this time the boys weren't so eager. We encircled them in such a position that we could cover them should the opportunity arise.

"An officer was pretty close to him and he let out a roar that would make anyone's hair stand on end. The ground actually shook from the vibration caused by that man-eater. As I saw it happen, when 'Chiefie' let out his challenge the natives took for the trees, gaining the tops in nothing flat. To make a long story short, that tiger slipped through us in all the excitement. The officer said that when he came onto the tiger the animal gave a spring and a roar. In his actual words, he said, 'I was petrified.' Such was the first day's hunt and the results were—soaking wet and no tiger.

"The next day the hunt was resumed but still no results. Then the army officers put out an order that we were to quit hunting as they were bringing in a professional tiger hunter whose ultimatum was to hunt alone without competition. I saw him only once. He was a boy of 14, very small in stature, with a very light gun that resembled a .410 shotgun. To date he has had no results and the tiger was supposedly seen once after that. A soldier emptied his .45 automatic on a shadow that resembled a tiger.

"In order to protect ourselves from then on, we used smudge pots with oil and gasoline burning at all times during the night, and spaced close enough to lighten the area between pots.

"This is a funny sort of ending, as most stories conclude with getting the final shot, dressing the animal and preserving the hide. But all I can say is that we will have to let it pass as another one that got away. So, if any of you gentlemen would consider a post-war hunting trip to Burma to continue the hunt after the war is over—that is providing you pay all expenses and make arrangements where to have your remains (what's left of you after 'Chiefie' get finished) sent—you can get my address from the Pennsylvania Game News. Incidentally, I have an 8 gauge shotgun to lend to the financier. The last fellow who shot it was turned around three times and knocked out like a light. Any replies will be promptly answered for that post-war date." —S/Sgt. James V. Meisel, 319th Troop Carrier Sqdn. (Commando) 1st Air Commando Group, APO 690, c/o Postmaster, New York. (Jungles of Burma).

---

We recently learned that Lt. "Bob" McDowell of the G-C's staff has been awarded a silver star citation for gallantry in action at Bauernshaft, Germany, on March 8, 1945.

---

Recent visitors to the Harrisburg office have been Lt. Richard Gerstell, Lt. Nicholas Ruha, Lt. Robert McDowell and PFC Delbert Batchelor. These men all dropped in to say "hello" while they were home on furloughs. It was good to see them again.

"Here comes a note from one of your boys. I know that it is a little late, but better late than never.

"How are all the folks in the Harrisburg office? I sure do hope that you are all in the best of health. I don't need to ask how things are going because I know that the 'gang' will make them go. They always have and they won't stop now.

"We have been fairly busy since we left France. First we went to Hemer, Germany and there cleaned up a concentration camp of about 23,000 persons. Most of these were Russians. Boy, what a job and what a mess! I'm sure that none of us will ever forget that first sight. We had heard plenty about them but you have to see one to really be able to believe the things you hear.

"From Hemer we moved into Branan, Austria. It was here that we took care of our first American boys. They were only there about four days and then started on their journey back to the States. They were mostly all Air Corps fellows who had been captured as long as three years. They were in the best shape of any prisoners that we have seen. None of them were made to work like the other prisoners that we have taken care of. After the Americans we

**"He pounced upon his victim . . . "**

got about 400 Russians, Poles, etc., into our hospital.

"From there we moved to Gmunden, Austria. Here we helped another bunch run another hospital in another concentration camp. This camp was made up of all political prisoners. Here I saw my first crematory. There were bodies still there which they, the Germans, didn't have a chance to cremate.

"From there we were moved back into Germany to a place called Hohenfels. Here we ran a hospital in a camp of Polish people. We had a pretty good setup there since all we did was supervise. It was too good to last and we were only there for about one week. Then we moved here to our present place.

"Not all of the things that I've seen have been horrible and not all of my time has been spent working. I've had some good times too. While still in France I was fortunate enough to be able to spend a couple of days in Paris. Not the Paris that used to be, but nevertheless quite a gay place. We surely did have a great time. We visited all the places of interest and believe me there are surely a lot of them.

"I've also seen quite a few interesting and pretty places in Austria and Germany. I have taken quite a few rolls of film. I am sorry that I haven't been able to get hold of some kodachrome film because some of the pictures would have been very beautiful in color.

"I've seen quite a bit of game since coming over here—pheasants, quail, Hungarians, squirrels, rabbits and hares and deer. When I was in Gnunden a fellow wanted to take me hunting for mountain goats but I couldn't get away. He guaranteed me a shot in two days. I sure would have liked to take him up on his offer. While at Gnunden I did get to do some trout fishing, though, and that helped a lot."—PFC John P. Eicholtz, 33930964, 515th Cl. Co. APO 403, New York.

---

"Just where have I been hiding that until today I never set eyes on that magazine called 'Pennsylvania Game News' (April 1945 issue). Where did I find it? India, in a batch of Red Cross magazines. And did I ever jump on it? Well I'll say. What a surprise that I should live so close (Mayville, N. Y.) and never see one of those eye openers.

"It is really 'on the beam' as we say in the Air Corps. In this man's war we all talk of our home states and we all say it is the best, but for me good ol' Pennsylvania ranks among the three on my list, and I mean they rank equal, too.

"I only wish that the people who read your magazine knew how the boys, or rather men, who had to come to a far away place like this would appreciate a magazine like it if they could get it. It sure would go nice with that ol' pipe when we get a chance to sit and think of times gone by."—Cpl. G. Blanchard, 903 S.G. Co., 28 Air Depot, APO 492, c/o Postmaster, New York.

---

"Did you notice my letter heading? Our geographical location is no longer secret. My present location is the western terminus of the Stilwell road, of which you have probably read something. We are part of the military police organization which controls the traffic on the entire road. The road is getting a real test now during the monsoon season. Plenty of stuff being pushed through in spite of the weather. Seven inches of water in one day at places—23 inches of rainfall in a six-day period at another location. That gives you some idea of the amount of rain here."—Sgt. John S. Shuler, 33571145, 699th M.P. Co., APO 689, c/o Postmaster, New York.

---

"A few weeks ago while traveling in the outskirts of the City of Munich, I noticed a young deer, and I'm quite sure it was a buck, standing near the road in a small grass plot. He didn't seem at all frightened or excited until we were a considerable distance past him. Then he dashed across the road behind us, and at full speed ran toward a small woodlot off in the distance.

"To me, this was very unusual, seeing a deer in the outskirts of such a large city. I have seen several others here in Germany, one very large deer that I could not distinguish, and a few small does.

"On an average I think the deer over here are much smaller than in Pennsylvania.

*(Continued on Page 28)*

# ★ ★ ★ CURRENT TOPICS ★ ★ ★

## Memorial

Dr. Carl B. Rosenkrans

IT IS with deepest regret that we announce the death of Commissioner Carl B. Rosenkrans, of East Stroudsburg.

Seized with a heart attack as he and a companion were washed overboard from a fishing craft at Indian River Inlet, Delaware, on August 23, Dr. Rosenkrans was dead when taken from the water.

Born in East Stroudsburg, Nov. 5, 1886, he studied at East Stroudsburg State Teachers college and attended Medico-Chirurgical college, Philadelphia. He was a general practitioner from 1911, and owner of a private hospital, the Rosenkrans hospital in East Stroudsburg.

A veteran of World War I, he served as a captain in the medical corps with the 322nd Infantry. He was to have been a candidate for mayor of East Stroudsburg in the coming election.

Among the many social and fraternal organizations to which he belonged were the Saw Creek Hunting and Fishing Association and the Maskenhosha Rod and Gun Club. Because of this active participation in sportsmen's activities and his intense interest in and knowledge of conservation principles, he was appointed by Governor Martin on April 13, 1944 to serve on the Game Commission.

A widely known and well loved philanthropist of Northeastern Pennsylvania and a sportsman of state renown, Dr. Rosenkran's death is deeply felt by all who knew him.

## WHAT A MAN!

By A FRIEND

We've met here tonight, according to plans,
To honor our friend, Carl Rosenkrans;
Not as doctor or surgeon or Commissioner of Game,
But as your friend and my friend—who is always the same.

He carries a smile wherever he goes,
He radiates sunshine from his head to his toes;
His waistline is big to make space for his heart;
Of things worthwhile—he is always a part.

At work and at play he does so much
To make people happy with his kindly touch;
He's helping, he's doing all things that he can
To make life more pleasant—for his fellow man.

He fishes and hunts, he's a sportsman supreme,
He'll be a grand man on the Governor's team
To protect the State's wildlife with sense and good poise,
He'll be helping the game—not just making a noise.

You can count on his wisdom and interest too,
To do a fine job for me and for you;
To Governor Martin who said "Doc is my choice,"
Goes our vote of thanks—at the top of our voice.

So as your friend and my friend, he is honored today
By what he has done—not what we have to say,
We know he'll be doing the best that he can,
'Tis typical of "Doc"—Ye Gods! What a Man!

(From a tribute presented at a banquet shortly after Dr. Rosenkrans' appointment.)

## THE SKY LINE TRAIL

Have you ever taken the sky line trail,
Way up from the valleys below?
And wended your way through the rocks about,
Way up, to where breezes blow?

Have you ever stood on the mountain top,
As you reached the summit high?
Then surrendered your soul to nature,
As the clouds went sailing by?

Have you ever stood on the rocks above,
With your head held Oh! so high;
And breathed the air in it's pureness,
And cast your troubles away with a sigh?

Have you ever experienced the thrill of life,
As you came up from the valleys below;
When your mind, and soul were so full of strife,
That you didn't know where to go?

If you have you've found life's fullness.
What a relief, as your troubles depart;
When you take yourself up the sky line trail,
'Tis there your soul takes heart.

'Tis there you renew your grip on life.
Nature makes strong men, out of frail;
And you will say good bye to your troubles,
When you hit the sky line trail.

By HARRY C. KUHNS.

## A TOAST TO AUTUMN

By *Hilda Clark Fairchild*

Here's to the season of jewels and crowns,
Of royal purple and golden gowns;
When bittersweet clusters of orange hue
And woodbines adorn the avenue;
Maples lift proudly their ruby heads,
And sumacs flaunting their flaming reds,
Contend with asters of heavenly blue
While elms drop their tawny leaves on you.

Ah! autumn, beware, last days are nigh!
We hear the wild geese honking high,
And watch the flocking of crows at morn
Gathered in fields of yellow corn;
Purple veils cling to the distant hills—
Silver moon caresses, the white frost stills
These brilliant hues without one cry—
But whispering, "Spirit can never die."

## MEMORIAL

Herbert L. Beatty, 57, of Ewing, former Pennsylvania Game Supervisor, died July 28. Mr. Beatty had been in failing health for the past two years but his illness did not become critical until a few days previous to his death.

Mr. Beatty was appointed a State Game Protector on June 2, 1916 and subsequently became a Division Supervisor in charge of a 12-county area in Northwestern Pennsylvania. He was a loyal, conscientious employe until he resigned on September 1, 1931.

Conservationists and sportsmen have indeed lost a friend with the passing of Mr. Beatty.

## GROUSE HUNTER LEW

I live in Pennsylvania,
The home of hunting men,
Who answer to the summons
Of mountain, moor, and glen.

Some like to hunt the rabbit,
That rolling furry ball,
When beagle hounds are baying
They answer to the call.

Some prefer the squirrel
That hides above the limb.
They watch till he forgets and lets
His own tail tell on him.

Some would chase the ringneck
Through grassy swamp and swale
To get a chance to sight along
That fancy two-foot tail.

Just let an old racoon start out
And Dad and Ken and Jim
Right soon will have their lanky hounds
A-baying after him.

But give to me the old ruffed grouse,
That roaring thunder wing,
The best that hunters hunt for,
The Pennsylvania king.

Give me too my hunting pal,
A grouseman through and through
A sportsman of the highest type,
That keen grouse hunter Lew.

Grouse hunter Lew who when a boy
Explored the forest wide,
He opened many a secret door
And took a look inside.

He likes the woodland music,
The hum, the song, the call,
But when the grouse are drumming
He likes that best of all.

However far they're feeding
From path or beaten road
He seems to know just where to find
The place where they explode.

And when they do he knows the way
To stop the feathery goods,
Uncanny like he separates them
From the tangled woods.

He never mixes alcohol
And powder for the kill
And never has to substitute
Profanity for skill.

And when he takes a friend with him
To some wild grouse corral
He does not spend his time and thought
On how to beat his pal.

He does not care about the grouse,
Just who shall bring it down,
But he does care what friends they are
When they get back to town.

So when it comes to hunting grouse
And hunting friendship too
I have yet to meet the man
Who beats Grouse Hunter Lew.

F. Judson Sewall,
New Wilmington, Pa.

# Part-Time Lecturers Appointed

The Game Commission, at its meeting on June 28, decided to increase the scope of its educational program in the field and approved the appointment of a corps of part-time lecturers for this purpose. These representatives whose names, addresses and affiliations follow, will make their debut before a great many Teachers' Institutes this Fall and will thereafter be available for assignment to sportsmen's clubs, Civic Clubs, etc.

Mrs. J. Charles Runk of Stone Acres, Bradford Woods, Pa., Chairman on Conservation and Gardens, Pennsylvania Federation of Women's Clubs.

Mrs. Maxwell Steel, Huntingdon, Pa., Civic leader locally affiliated with Women's and Garden Clubs.

Mrs. Ellen Dietrich, 1141 Roosevelt Drive, Upper Darby, Pa., Secretary, Pennsylvania Conservation Committee, Secretary Montgomery County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, and Secretary Lower Merion Rod and Gun Club.

Mr. Charles H. Nehf, 1638 North 21st Street, Allentown, Pa., Chairman, Southeastern Division of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, a teacher in the Allentown schools and an outdoor columnist for the Allentown *Morning Call.*

Mr. E. M. Swanger, Lebanon, Pa., Secretary-Treasurer of the Pennsylvania Division of the Izaak Walton League and an official of the Lebanon Business College.

Mr. Seth Myers, 380 North Oakland Avenue, Sharon, Pa., Secretary of the Northwestern Division of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, and an outdoor writer for the several newspapers.

Mr. Nicholas Casillo, 211 West Winter Avenue, New Castle. Naturalist, author and teacher of Biology in the schools of New Castle. He recently completed a book on conservation and biology which will be off press shortly.

Mr. Stephen Emanuel, Boyd Dodson School, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Vice-Chairman of Northeastern Division of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs and Supervising Principal of the schools of Wilkes-Barre.

Mr. R. W. Steventon, 13 West Catawissa Street, Nesquehoning, Pa., Chairman, Conservation Committee, Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, and principal of the Nesquehoning High School.

Mr. Robert Ford, 130 West Ninth Avenue, Homestead, Wildlife photographer and lecturer.

In the past all requests for educational services were handled by Mr. Randolph Thompson, of State College, and the seven Field Division offices. Despite this effort the Commission was unable to meet the demand and decided that a well qualified group of part-time lecturers would solve the problem. These representatives are educators for the most part and have been ardent and enthusiastic conservationists for many years. Their presentation before all groups shall be entirely from an educational standpoint. A number of them are officers in the Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs and the Izaak Walton League.

The Commission also reassigned Mr. Randolph Thompson to school and youth programs entirely, and any club or organization interested in securing his services for such purpose should make its request direct to the Game Commission at Harrisburg. The same procedure should also be followed in requesting the services of the part-time lecturers hereinbefore mentioned.

**Above are several part-time lecturers recently appointed by the Commission in an endeavor to extend its educational program more widely. Standing, left to right: Mr. Robert Steventon, Mr. N. R. Casillo, Mr. Robert Ford and Mr. Stephen Emanuel. Sitting: Mrs. Ellen Dietrich, Mrs. Maxwell Steel and Mr. E. M. Swanger. Those not present when the photograph was taken were: Mrs. J. Charles Runk, Mr. Charles H. Nehf and Mr. Seth Myers.**

# In the Best Interests of All

TWENTY years ago the General Assembly charged the Pennsylvania Game Commission, within certain limitations, with full regulatory responsibility for changing seasons and bag limits from year to year as the prospective annual supply of game and fur-bearers might justify.

The legislation delegating this responsibility stipulated the opening dates for seasons, bag limits, etc., as a general guide for the Commission, which also automatically become the legal restrictions if in any year the Commission should find it unnecessary to exercise its powers.

Prior to 1936 the Game Commission refrained from changing the opening dates for the small game season, but the regular date for buck hunting was left unchanged that year. Due to the terrific losses of the previous winter drastic curtailments were deemed necessary that season, and changes were made to provide maximum hunting privileges consistent with the limited game supply then available.

After trying the shifting of dates for a few seasons it was found that this served no useful purpose, and caused widespread misunderstanding and confusion. Beginning with 1944 the Commission decided to adhere to the opening dates for both small game and buck seasons as stated in the law, thereby avoiding confusion for all and especially to give busy war workers assurance that they could safely plan months in advance for their annual hunting vacations.

Throughout the twenty years an effort has been made to obtain adequate information as to the game crop and the kind of hunting regulations that would be needed, always keeping in mind that the Commission's first responsibility is to assure the perpetuation of a balanced game supply.

During the past decade the Commission has first obtained the fullest possible information from its field organization, the men who constantly live with the Commonwealth's wildlife problems and are in touch daily with the rank and file sportsmen. This information was then compiled and a confidential set of tentative recommendations submitted to the Directors of the Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs and officers of other interested statewide groups for study and suggestions. At a later date, unless the exigencies of the situation precluded, the leaders of these groups were invited to Harrisburg for a conference with the Commission before final action was taken. In these conferences it has always been understood that the Commissioners did not bind themselves to accept all of the recommendations submitted, but many of them were included in the final regulations.

This is the plan of procedure followed this year, and will be adhered to in the future until a better and more satisfactory method is evolved.

In response to recent complaints from a few groups that the Commission failed to act favorably upon some of their suggestions and proposals, President Ross L. Leffler in reply defended the Commission's action in the following statements:

"Your inference that the Commissioners acted on the basis of personal whims, rather than in an honest effort to discharge a solemn obligation to both the wildlife and the Commonwealth's citizens, is wholly unjustified. We have never allowed personal desires to sway our judgment in such matters . . . If there were mistakes, they were errors of judgment and not due to personal whims of the Commissioners . . . We have always made an effort to work as closely as possible with organized groups, but we have also been cognizant of our duty to all the people of the Commonwealth.

"I doubt whether a comparable agency in any other state of the Union has first collected information from all sources, then submitted confidential recommendations to the organized groups for study, followed by conferences such as we have held regularly. If we had committed ourselves in advance to adopt all the additional ideas submitted, there would be no need for a Commission to consider such matters. At the conference of June 27 no definite agreements were made, and I am sorry if any of those present thought otherwise. The opening dates adopted by the Commission for small game and deer were the same as those suggested in the confidential memorandum of April 13, but the bear season was shifted to meet the views of the Federation and others.

"As to further legislation on the subject, the Game Commission would have no objection whatever to fixing the opening dates for the several hunting seasons by law, but it must be kept in mind that merely to stipulate the Saturday nearest November 1 as the opening date for small game would frequently work a serious hardship on the northern half of the state where, due to weather conditions, the season should actually open around October 20 to 25. On the other hand, there are valid objections to starting the season in southern Pennsylvania prior to November. The date specified in the law is therefore a compromise fairly satisfactory to all concerned.

"Likewise, to open the deer season on the Monday nearest December 1 would often handicap the sportsmen in northern Pennsylvania because of early deep snows and cold weather, and mar the pleasure of deer hunting in the very region where the most of these animals are found.

"The Commission could not change the opening dates this year because too many people in industrial plants in the state had already fixed their vacations on the basis of openings on November 1 and December 1. Obviously, it would have been unfair to them for us to shift the dates afterward. If any change in policy is made it should be made early in the year so everyone can plan accordingly.

"In conclusion, if the Game Commission is assured that the majority of Pennsylvania's hunters actually want the seasons to open on the days of the week indicated, regardless of the calendar, we shall be happy to adopt such a plan as a future fixed policy, or to advocate suitable legislation. Before doing so, however, we must be reasonably sure of our ground."

**"I know where we're going and he knows where we've been!"**

**The above photos were taken at the 10th anniversary banquet of the St. Marys' Sportsmen's Association on June 21. Over 400 attended and heard a number of interesting speakers including John M. Phillips at the microphone above. Also on the photo are, from left to right: Senator George Stevenson, Lock Haven; Dr. H. E. Kilgus, Brockway, member of the Game Commission; and Mr. James Kell, Secretary of Forests and Waters.**

# Conservation Laboratory Committee Appointed

A movement has recently been set afoot in Pennsylvania to establish a CONSERVATION LABORATORY (i. e., Conservation Courses) FOR TEACHERS, so that teachers, in turn, will be prepared to teach conservation in their classrooms throughout the State. This worthy endeavor, initiated by the Pennsylvania Federation of Women's Clubs and supported by others of our "Conservation Allies," is receiving cooperation from the State Department of Public Instruction, from outstanding Pennsylvania colleges and universities and from State and National conservation agencies, as well.

A number of other states have successfully set up such courses and Pennsylvania has decided that it will not be left behind in this all-important work.

Conservationists have awakened indeed and they agree that, although it's late enough, it's still not too late to replace the huge losses resulting from carelessness and waste. As one of the most important remedial steps, they add, let's prepare our teachers to train our youth to recognize and meet intelligently the vital problems of conservation. For thinking people realize that conservation education of our youth of today will be the greatest possible assurance of CONSERVATION-MINDED ADULTS OF TOMORROW.

To date, those interested in this cause have held three meetings—the first in Pittsburgh, the second in the offices of the Superintendent of Public Instruction at Harrisburg and the third in the office of President Hetzel of the Pennsylvania State College. Numerous details remain to be worked out before the Summer of 1946, when it is anticipated the first courses will have been "whipped into shape" and ready for presentation. In the interim, text books are being prepared, conferences are being planned and further coordination of thought and material is being accomplished.

In addition to the contemplated courses for teachers, conservation conference groups for lay people are also being planned.

A permanent Advisory Committee has been formed—The Advisory Committee of the PENNSYLVANIA CONSERVATION LABORATORY FOR TEACHERS. Mrs. J. Chas. Runk of Pittsburgh has been selected Chairman, Dr. Henry Klonower of Harrisburg, Executive Director, and Mrs. Ellen A. Dietrich of Upper Darby, Secretary.

The Advisory Committee is as follows:—

J. Allen Barrett, Harrisburg—Educational Lecturer, Pennsylvania Fish Commission;

Dr. Herbert H. Beck, Lancaster, Eastern Division, Audubon Society; Franklin and Marshall College;

Prof. Victor Beede, State College—Department of Forestry, Pennsylvania State College;

Harris Breth, Clearfield—Columnist, "Pittsburgh Sun Telegraph";

Dr. Stanley Brooks, Pittsburgh—Carnegie Museum; Columnist;

Dr. Henry S. Brunner, State College—Department of Agricultural Education, Pennsylvania State College;

Dr. Paul L. Cressman, Harrisburg—Department of Public Instruction;

Mrs. Ellen A. Dietrich, Upper Darby—Secretary-Treasurer, Pennsylvania Conservation Committee; Publicity Chairman and Acting Secretary, Schuylkill River Valley Restoration Association; Secretary, Penn State Alumnae Club of Philadelphia; Secretary, Middle Atlantic Association of Casting Clubs;

James H. Duff, Attorney General, Harrisburg;

Mrs. Joseph D. Dury, Sewickly—Programs Chairman, Pennsylvania Federation of Women's Clubs;

Dr. S. W. Fletcher, State College—Dean, School of Agriculture;

Mrs. Cyril G. Fox, Media—President, Pennsylvania Roadside Council;

Charles A. French, Harrisburg—Commissioner of Fisheries;

C. F. Glessner, Harrisburg—Harrisburg Chapter, Izaak Walton League of America;

Mrs. Helen Worth Gordon, Philadelphia—Director Women's Activities, United States Forest Service (Philadelphia Office);

Seth Gordon, Harrisburg—Executive Director, Pennsylvania Game Commission;

Dr. Francis Haas, Harrisburg—Superintendent of Public Instruction;

Dr. Arthur W. Henn, Pittsburgh—Chairman, Advisory Board of Pennsylvania Division, Izaak Walton League of America; Carnegie Museum;

Miles Horst, Harrisburg—Secretary of Agriculture;

Dr. O. E. Jennings, Pittsburgh—Head, Department of Biology, University of Pittsburgh; Curator Botany, Carnegie Museum;

James G. Kell, Harrisburg—Secretary, Department of Forests and Waters;

Dr. Henry Klonower, Harrisburg—Director, Teacher Education and Certification, Department of Public Instruction;

Mrs. Paul Koenig, Spring Grove—President, Pennsylvania Federation of Women's Clubs;

Judge Grover C. Ladner, Philadelphia—President, Pennsylvania Conservation Committee; President, Schuylkill River Valley Restoration Association; Member of Advisory Board, Pennsylvania Division, Izaak Walton League of America;

Ross L. Leffler, Pittsburgh—President Pennsylvania Game Commission;

John F. Lewis, Connellsville—Instructor, Connellsville High School;

Leo A. Luttringer, Jr., Harrisburg—Chief, Division of Public Information, Pennsylvania Game Commission;

Edward Martin, Governor of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg;

H. Gleason Mattoon, Philadelphia—Secretary, Pennsylvania Forestry Association;

R. W. Melton, Harrisburg—Harrisburg Chapter, Izaak Walton League of America;

John G. Mock, Pittsburgh—"All Outdoors" Editor, "Pittsburgh Press";

Charles E. Mohr, Philadelphia—Director of Education, Pennsylvania Academy of Natural Science;

Mrs. Edward S. Neilson, Malvern—President, Garden Club Federation of Penna;

G. I. Phillips, Alexandria—Commissioner, Pennsylvania Game Commission;

Frances A. Pitkin, Harrisburg—Executive Director, State Planning Board; Director, Friends of the Land; Director, Pennsylvania Roadside Council; Member of the Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin and of the Council of State Governments' Post-War Planning Committee;

Mrs. Humbert B. Powell, Devon—President, Conservation Council of Penna;

Colin M. F. Reed, Washington, Pa.—President, Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs; Vice-President, National Wildlife Federation;

Dr. William W. Reitz, Upper Darby—Educational Relations, U. S. Soil Conservation Service Regional Office;

Mrs. J. Charles Runk, Pittsburgh—Conservation Chairman, Pennsylvania Federation of Women's Clubs;

Howard Shilling, Huntingdon—President, Pennsylvania Division, Izaak Walton League of America;

*(Continued on Page 32)*

## ATTENTION!

Gentlemen, may we present the nimrod, Hamhead Hogg?

The splendid beast beside him is Gripe, his hunting dog.

We're sure you know Hogg's counterpart—there's one in every county.

A woodsman once remarked that guys like Hogg should bring a bounty.

No sportsmanship flows in his veins; he hunts from sheer depravity.

The only laws that he observes are those of chance and gravity.

The pages of this journal, in the future, will portray

The exploits of this team and their adventures, day by day.

If you can learn a lesson and enjoy a laugh or two,

We'll feel that Hamhead may have paid, in part, his debt to you.

**EDITOR'S NOTE: The above cartoon feature by Messrs. S. A. Orr and R. G. Rodkey, of Pittsburgh, will appear monthly in Game News for an indefinite period. If you have any ideas for this feature, we shall be happy to receive them.**

**In a recent communication Governor Edward Martin furnished each of his cabinet officers and Department heads and deputies the following extract from an address to the Young Men's Lyceum of Springfield, Illinois, on January 27, 1837 and encouraged them to read it carefully. We hope that you will read it, too.**

## "Respect for Law"

"Let every American, every lover of liberty, every well-wisher to his posterity swear by the blood of the Revolution never to violate in the least particular the laws of the Country, and never to tolerate their violation by others. As the Patriots of Seventy-six did to the support of the Declaration of Independence, so to the support of the Constitution and laws let every American pledge his life, his property, and his sacred honor—let every man remember that to violate the law is to trample on the blood of his father, and to tear the charter of his own and his children's liberty. Let reverence for the laws be breathed by every American mother to the lisping babe that prattles on her lap; let it be taught in schools, in seminaries, and in colleges; let it be written in primers, spelling books, and in almanacs; let it be preached from the pulpit, proclaimed in legislative halls, and enforced in courts of justice, and in short, let it become the political religion of the Nation."

# Club Notes

The Altoona Wildlife Conservation club recently reported a large number of new members.

This club has been working in conjunction with the sportsmen's clubs of the county in furthering conservation and propagation of all wildlife along with the prevention of soil erosion, pollution of streams and building up of outdoor life. A reading room with appropriate literature is being opened at the Y. M. C. A. for the youth and others of the community to become better acquainted with conditions destroying our natural resources.

The club is raising 500 day-old ringneck pheasant chicks and is making extensive plans for the formation of a Junior Wildlife Conservation Club.

---

The Keystone Fish and Game Association of Shamokin and Coal Township, determined to combat the dog menace to game, is asking the Game Commission to deputize twenty men and grant them the privilege of shooting dogs detected disturbing wildlife.

Many licensed and unlicensed dogs have been reported running rampant, and the association has decided that something must be done about it if good hunting in the section is to be maintained.

---

The Montgomery County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs has announced that approximately 10,000 acres have been added this year to the Cooperative Farm-Game Projects in that county, raising the total area of such projects to more than 25,000 acres on which public hunting is permitted as a result of farmer-sportsman cooperation.

During the past year residents of Montgomery County collected $622.50 in bounties from the Game Commission for 133 gray foxes and 94 weasels.

---

At a recent meeting of the Montour County Fish and Game Conservation Club, plans were formulated for the purchase of a property in the near future. The club plans to establish its own headquarters on its own property and tentative arrangements call for the purchase of a farm. Nothing definite has been settled but club officials are looking for a suitable place to establish a permanent home.

This organization has over 100 members, one-third of the goal of 300 needed for a flourishing game and fish association.

---

The Red Bank Valley Sportsmen's Association had a unique booth at the recent Farmers' and Merchants' Picnic near New Bethlehem. The booth housed a live deer, some 'coons, a fox and a number of pheasants. Other species were represented in the mounted section of the booth.

Among the main projects of this organization are the stocking of game and fish in local fields and streams.

---

The Northern Lancaster County Game and Fish Protective Association reports that in the Borough of Ephrata they trapped 145 rabbits, 45 of which were caught by one member, Ray Brubaker. The association also purchased 120 Missouri rabbits which were liberated in open public hunting grounds in Ephrata and Clay townships.

In February the club purchased 100 male ringneck pheasants and liberated them on open hunting ground.

During the past winter, this organization paid $5 bounties on 13 red and 9 gray foxes killed in Ephrata, Clay, East Cocalico and West Cocalico Townships during the months of December, January, February and March.

For the past five years the association has held an annual fish contest for club members. This year, to create more interest among the children and make them more sports-minded, the club offered a prize of $2.00 to any child under sixteen years of age catching the longest fish of each species.

The club has a paid membership of 400. Former members in the Armed Forces receive their memberships free of charge.

---

The Delaware County Field and Stream Association is forming a Junior Association. Carl Truxell, teacher in the Darby High School, who sponsored a Boys' Club interested in hunting and fishing, is assisting by having his boys brought into the Association's Junior Club as soon as it is fully organized. There will be no minimum age requirements for members. The maximum age is the boy's sixteenth birthday.

The Ways and Means Committee of the Delaware County club now have $2,100.00 in war bonds. With this they hope eventually to buy their own club site and build a clubhouse.

---

York Chapter No. 67 of the Izaak Walton League of America reports that the sportsmen from Jacobus are aiming to be among the first ten in the tree sponsoring program being conducted by that organization. The Jacobus boys are pooling their tree bids and hope to reach $100 and dedicate a tree to their home town—Jacobus. There has also been a movement to sponsor a special memorial tree in the memory of departed Waltonians of the York Chapter.

On Saturday, June 30, the York Chapter made the first payment of $3000 on its new property and received the deed for it. The transaction was completed in August when the final payment was made. This means that this group of Waltonians will soon have a home to call their own! Nice going!

---

The West Shore Sportsmen's Association of New Cumberland has released 121 pheasants in the upper end of York County and Cumberland County. Some of the birds have been placed on the association's game refuge on Ray Steward's farm along the Conodoguinet. About 225 birds are still held for future release on the West Shore.

---

Merle Shoemaker was recently elected secretary of the Shippensburg Fish and Game Association. He succeeds Kurtz Hantshew, who resigned.

Seven new members were enrolled by the organization, at the same meeting.

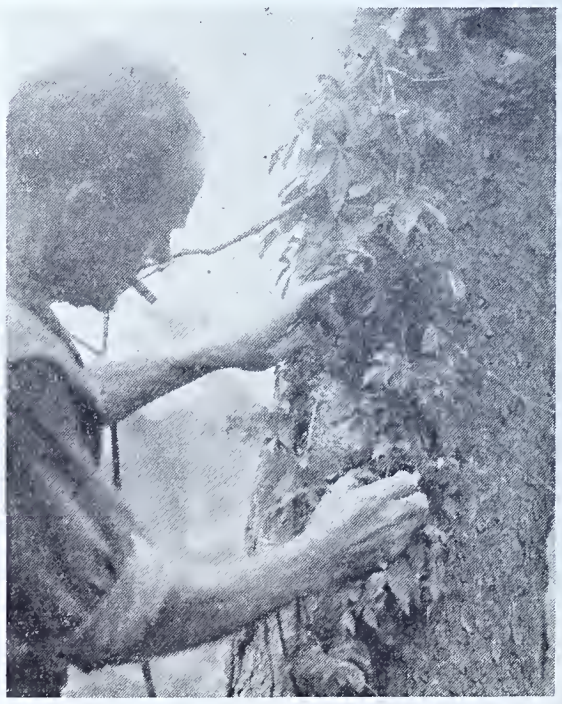


Photo by W. L. R. Drake.

**Game Protector Earl Smith, Lycoming County, showing a Baltimore oriole's nest suspended only 4 feet from the ground on a tree near his residence.**

Photo by Leo A. Luttringer, Jr.

**This fawn turned up in a barnyard of a farm adjacent to the mountains in Cumberland County. It was subsequently placed on display at the Harrisburg Zoo.**

The Lehigh County Fish and Game Protective Association is observing its silver anniversary during the 1945-46 season.

Activity highlights planned for the season include: the cooperative raising of 1000 ring-necked pheasants with the aid of several Lehigh County landowners; the rabbit round-up to be started in December to rid the city's Victory gardens of about 1,300 and to have the bunnies released in rural areas; the annual live trout fishing contest to be held sometime next spring; and a 3,000 membership goal.

The group has set aside more than $1,000 for a living memorial to be dedicated to the association's 300 members in the armed forces.

This season the club topped its own goal of 2,400 members by 488.

---

The Cambria County Sportsmen's Association has already subscribed $300 for the establishment of a fish hatchery in the county. The sportsmen are considering taking a lease on the old Johnstown Rod and Gun Club site in the Rager Mountain near Armaugh for the establishment of the fish nursery, and expect to raise and liberate between 50,000 and 75,000 fish annually.

---

A few days ago we received a letter from Kennard H. Gardner, SC (B) 1c, a former Deputy Game Protector who is now serving at the Fourth Fleet Food Farm. He says that the Farm is raising North American wild turkeys in Brazil. Starting with three hens and one gobbler, the Farm now has 30 poults in good health.

This Farm was developed from 500 acres of jungle about two years ago. All kinds of vegetables are being grown on approximately 200 acres, thus furnishing the sailors in the South Atlantic with fresh foods.

Raising chickens and pigs are also big projects on the Farm. Most of the chickens are hatched there. At present there are about 10,000. The kill per week amounts to about 1,000 chickens.

## DOG TRAINER'S WARNING

Dog trainers are urged to be especially careful to keep their dogs out of farmers' soybeans and grain fields during the training season, which runs from August 20 to March 31 inclusive.

Although the war is over, the food emergency still exists and the less damage to crops the more there will be to eat. Dogs running through grain fields are a menace and trainers should try to keep them in fallow fields where they can do no harm.

Trainers are also reminded that during the hours from sunrise to 9:00 p.m. dogs, when accompanied by and under control of their owner or handler, may be trained upon any game except, elk, deer, bear or wild turkey so long as no firearms of the type usually raised at arm's length and fired from the shoulder are carried and no injury is inflicted upon the game.

---

"For some time I have been contemplating a plan whereby we sportsmen may show our appreciation to our fellow sportsmen who are in the service, especially those who have returned or will be home for the big game season.

"I am a member of 'Twin Mountain Camp' of Potter County, and at a recent meeting the members decided to have as their guest for the coming big game season Sgt. Richard Smeltz, 304th Engr. 79th Division, who fought through the European conflict from 'D-Day' until the end. We are proud to offer our facilities to our friend. He may stay with us as long as he desires and it will not cost him *one cent.*

"Nearly every hunting camp has extra room for a serviceman. Let's make room for the greatest sportsmen in our state—our servicemen—and invite them along this year with all expenses paid."—Donald C. Graybill, New Providence.

## BOOK REVIEWS

COOKING WILD GAME by Frank G. Ashbrook and Edna N. Sater. Orange Judd Publishing Co., 15 East 26th Street, New York. $4.00.

This book is intended for a three-fold audience—housewives, hunters and anglers and conservationists.

Besides containing 432 time-tested and time-honored recipes, it tells how to overcome wild or gamy flavor in "fishy ducks," pluck feathered game with paraffin, remove musk or scent glands in small game, use marinades and brines to tenderize game meat and enhance flavor, can wild meats and prepare game meat for home freezing.

It is also a "first aid in the field" for the hunter, explaining how to field dress deer and other big game, remove the internal organs, cut up the carcass and the correct method of handling the hide from which gloves, a hunting jacket or a vest can be made.

SHOTGUNNING IN THE LOWLANDS by Ray P. Holland. A. S. Barnes & Co., 67 West 44th St., New York 18, N. Y. A Countryman Press book.

No group of men was as wise in the ways of wildfowl as the market hunters of the glorious 'nineties. In this book, Ray Holland, an authority on waterfowl and waterfowl hunting, tells interestingly some of the things he learned from the old-time market hunters and other tricks he picked up which have helped him when afield.

There is a chapter on jack-snipe, one on rail birds and one on crows. The chapter on crows is worth reading, as crow hunting affords valuable shooting practice, is fun, and benefits both the farmer and the hunter.

Photo by W. L. R. Drake.

**The site of the Commission's new wild turkey farm in Lycoming County, near Barbours.**

# TO A DUCK HAWK

## By TALBOTT DENMEAD

DURING the winter of 1939 and 1940 a duck hawk made its home on top of the United States Post Office Building on Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D. C. It did not choose to live on one of the lower spires, where there was at least some protection from the wind and cold, but selected the highest point on that tall building—the very top. There is a little platform there about two feet square, with a little steeple in the middle ending in a point about two feet above. Always this bird, when he was at ease, could be found on the southeast corner of this little platform. His outline (I presume it was a male for he was not a very large duck hawk) could be seen, if one knew where to look, several blocks away. Every afternoon at the closing of the Government offices he would be perched there unconcerned and unobserved by the thousands who hurried home by auto, bus, and on foot.

Yes, he killed and ate pigeons! Sometimes he would silently glide down Pennsylvania Avenue before roosting time, and the starlings, the dirty things, would separate to let this lordly bird pass by. But the Creator made him so. He had to catch and eat birds to exist and continue his species. He did nothing wrong, but only what the Great Order of Things required him to do. Perhaps the pigeons knew this; for when the hawk was well-fed and preening his feathers at his favorite resting and roosting place, they ignored him; but when he was hungry and on the warpath, he did make those pigeons travel. I was on the Mall one day and saw several pigeons madly flying, and before I saw him I knew my *Falco peregrinus anatum* was in the air. But he was not hungry and did not strike; in fact I have never seen him make a kill. After circling and swooping several times at incredible speed, he returned to his favorite perch.

This is the winter of 1943-44. I have looked in vain during two falls and early winters for this noble falcon. He has not returned to his accustomed place. No longer do I see the starlings frantic for the moment, rapidly beating their wings to get out of his way. His winter home is vacant. What has become of my knight of the air? Did he go back to the far north last spring to meet his mate and raise a brood on some great mountain crag and return to some other winter roosting place? Or has the winter been so mild that he has selected a more northern resort until springtime turns his thoughts to a rendezvous with the female of his species? I am hoping so, but in my mind is a fear—a fear that somewhere along the line of his northern or southern migration there lurked—death. Perhaps some unwitting and ignorant gunner has killed this feathered dive bomber on his way to his aerie. Or maybe some duck hunter, too selfish to grant him a few ducks, shot him from a ducking blind on his way south. Or perhaps some other natural or tragic death has caught up with him in his migrations and he has taken "La long Traverse," from which journey neither good nor bad hawk ever returns.

We will never know. Unless some other winter I glance at the tower on the Post Office Building and there see the outline of a duck hawk. But will I know if it is "my" hawk? I think I will—if he nightly returns and sits on the same spot at the southeast corner of the little platform at the top of the highest spire. If he fell by gunfire or in the chase, may his spirit rest in peace. "Not even a sparrow falleth—."

## LETTERS FROM READERS

"You can't beat a good scope, a super-accurate rifle and good 'chuck country for sport. However, iron sights, an accurate shot, bad light on the shade side of a hill and the exposed part of a careless hunter sitting exactly where you have seen a wily 'chuck many times can spoil your sport forever.

"It nearly happened to me.

"One evening last July I went on one of my frequent 'chuck hunting jaunts to the spot where a crafty old 'chuck had been dodging my shots for nearly three years. I drove past the clover field and tested the wind. It was all right for a shot from a hilltop about 250 yards away, so I drove back, parked by car and checked gun, ammunition and scope.

"My outfit was a M.70 Winchester Target Bbl., Marksman stock chambered for the .220 Arrow Cartridge, with a 15x Lyman scope sight.

"I took a round about way up the hill. The last few yards I walked carefully and looked over the top, down to the old poison ivy-covered fencerow bordering the clover field. There he sat, just inside the ivy with just his head showing, moving back and forth as he ate in the shade of the wild cherry trees. Most likely he was by the old stump just above his drop hole. I know the fence by heart.

"I carefully slipped my arm in the sling and slid down into prone position. I checked the wind, slid the stock to my cheek and eased the scope on his head.

"I would get one shot. If I missed he would be gone. Careful of the squeeze and hold, I swung the cross hairs on the old grizzled gray head and looked for his ear.

"Suddenly I froze. That was no chuck head! It was a gray-headed man!

"It seemed like ages before I could get my finger off the trigger and swing the muzzle off the target, and it was not until then that I could breathe freely once more. I waited to calm my hammering heart before I got up and walked down. I asked the man why in the name of sense he didn't wear a hat or something that would distinguish him from the 'chucks, and I told him what nearly happened.

"He just looked up and said, 'Why don't you look at what you are shooting?'

"I am glad I *did* look, and thankful I had a good scope sight to help me out. I was also glad the tables were not reversed, because he had a 30-30 with iron sights. Could he have seen my ear over them?"
—Deputy Game Protector George S. Holden.

## The Monument

*(From Page 13)*

with the emptiness when they walked by the square as they went walking.

In his hand Henry had the pearl-handled knife he had bought at Anderson's hardware to give to the boy when he came home. He was brushing the blade with the stone he carried and thinking, she knew, the same things she had been thinking.

"It's nearly two," she said.

A faded smile crossed his face. He clicked the knife shut, put it in his pocket, and his knees creaked a little as he got up.

And, "I think this is him now," she said.

They met Senator Everett on the walk. His hair was graying, but his eyes were sharp, and when he put out his hand, he said, "Hello," in a voice that had no falseness about it.

"Hello, Roy," Henry said. "Glad to see you." Mrs. Hooker nodded and smiled.

The senator took them first past the square and showed them the place where the earth was turned back. After that, they drove into the country along the carelessly looped, shining river and into the vacation hills.

She wanted to ask Senator Everett the name of the man who was doing the cutting and the engraving, but he and Henry were talking about the government. She felt a little edge in Henry's voice as he got on the subject of taxes and she hoped he wouldn't say what he thought about the monument being wasteful and improper.

Watching the scenery, she heard the senator say, "To hear you talk, Henry, you'd think all politicians were hell bent on ruining the country."

"I dunno," Henry said. "Seems to me they forget the kind of people they used to be, the kind of people they come from."

"Some do," Senator Everett said. "Some don't."

There was silence after that, and Mrs. Hooker was relieved they hadn't got on the subject of Bill and memorials and things of that nature. Senator Everett had been pretty nice, and she didn't like arguments, no matter if Henry was in the right of it.

The car turned into a shaded road and stopped before a small red-and-white farm-

*(Continued on Next Page)*

# Pappy's Ghost Talks Enforcement

*(From Page 3)*

without any coaxing. Peering down in the darkness I could faintly see the outline of a hound. Yes sir, sure as you're living, it was old "Trim" licking my hand. Now I am not given to the addicts of Bacchus or the making of false statements, and I tell you emphatically gentlemen it was Pappy's lost hound. I knew him well when I was a kid.

I was too weak to get up and too scared to run. I tried it, but when the mind was willing the flesh was weak. Once more I tried to make the supreme effort and managed to get on my feet. Old "Trim" stood directly in front of me on the path that I wanted to travel, blocking it perfectly.

Before I could take a step, a soft voice, but clear and distinct said, "Sit down lad I want to talk to you." I couldn't see a soul but the voice was unmistakably that of Pappy's.

"I knew you would come back and pay me a visit sometime," said Pappy, "but you did wait powerful long. Even though I've been a restin' up here for twenty years I haven't been asleep all the time. Learned a lot of things that I think you ought to know and do something about 'em—or your kids ain't never goin' to have no huntin'!"

I tried to speak, but Pappy interrupted me with, "Keep quiet till I finish. This thing's most damned important. I'm tellin' you, in all my born days I ain't never seen so much outlawin' a goin' on, as there is in these here fields and woods, and I can't do a darned thing about it, myself," he continued.

"Fer example, since early last August, almost every night, there's three or four fellows come in that medder right down there, and throw big lights all around, lookin' for deer. They must do blamed little sleepin' cause I hear 'em most any time from midnight to four in the mornin'. They're shootin' 'em with everything from 22's to shotguns. If anybody tells you they're not killin' 'em, they're wrong."

"Pappy, I"—"Keep quiet," he again reminded, "I'll do the talkin' now. You can act after I give you the facts.

"They ain't restrictin' their activities to the close season either. Last deer season I saw four nice big bucks killed right in that field, with spotlights—and durin' the open season. They ain't even afraid of the law.

"There's more gol dern buyin' and sellin' game goin' on than you think too. Two fellows a huntin' squirrel over in them woods the other day sit down on a log and started talkin'. One of 'em said, 'he don't have no time to go deer huntin' cept for a day or so and he's a goin' to get his buck even if he has to buy it.' Then the other fellow, not to be outdone by his pardner, up and tells how he bought one from a feller last year for ten measly dollars. Think of it, ten measly dollars. 'Taint right, my lad, 'taint right."

Pappy stopped to get his breath and I tried to get a word in edgewise. "I'm willing,"—"thought I told you to keep yer mouth shut," he demanded angrily.

"Cheatin' by every conceivable manner's a goin' on," he reminded me. "Fellers comin' from other States, get friendly with some of these natives right around here, who know a darned sight better, and get all the game they want. Can't understand how all them non-resident cars that I see a goin' down the road, all have deer on 'em. Something's wrong somewhere! You don't think fer a minute they are better shots and know the country better than these mountaineers livin' here the year round, do you?" he inquired.

"Now I ain't a sayin' the Game Wardens ain't on the job. I know they are, 'cause I see 'em around here pretty reg'lar. But they can't work all day and all night, too. And another thing, they can't be every place at once. I've seen 'em around here from eleven till one and two o'clock in the morning. Then about four, some of them hoodlums come in and kill a deer after they have gone home to get a little sleep."

"Well Pappy"—"This is the last time I'm a goin' to tell you to keep quiet," he interrupted, adding, "I'm about done now.

"I'm tellin' you, son, it ain't like it used to be. These big automobiles take 'em anywhere they want to go and in a jiffy. There ain't many camps any more. Mostly fellows just out huntin' for the day. Most of 'em pot hunters, too. Let the other fellow do the work. They want the game.

"Yes, you know who a lot of 'em are. Sure they are your good friends but you don't want to squeal on 'em and have 'em get caught. Would you let 'em walk in your barn, steal your pig and say nothing to 'em? No. Well, then why do you let them steal your game, and get away with it? That's just what your doin' every day of your life, and you're not doin' nothin' 'bout it.

**"Just what kind of animals does your new dog track?"**

"I know them Wardens, if they had a little help they could do wonders. But they have got to have help. Can't do the job alone. I hear 'em talkin' and they have lots of tricks up their sleeves that they never get any chance to use, 'cause fellows like you, shame on ya', are too thin skinned, fearin' to get somebody in trouble.

"If it goes along like this for the next ten years, you won't need to come back with your shotgun lookin' for game. There won't be any here. Think it over, and I'll be sayin' 'goodnight' now. Got to get a little sleep 'cause I was watchin' all last night and today."

Pappy and old "Trim" had disappeared as silently and quickly as they had appeared.

It was a full ten minutes before I was able to get my body in motion and start for home in the moonlight.

I think Pappy's got something and I'm going to do my share of the work.

How about you helpin'?

## SAFETY CAMPAIGN

In the past few years we have run well above the average on licenses for the period. In spite of the increase in hunters and the hasty hunting due to confining war jobs, there were only two-thirds as many fatalities as the average for 21 years. This proves that the education and law enforcement campaigns have been getting results.

## THE MONUMENT

*(Continued from Page 24)*

house. A mustached man came out to meet them—a rather old man, but not as old as Henry.

"Do you know Tom Andrews?" Senator Everett asked.

"Why . . ." Mrs. Hooker hesitated. "I've heard the name, I think. Bill used to come out here hunting. Used to mention the name Andrews."

Henry said, "Glad to meet you, Mr. Andrews."

"Glad to meet you folks," the mustached man said. "Yes, I knew Bill. Had some nice visits, we did."

"Is it ready?" Senator Everett asked.

"Yep," Tom Andrews said. "It is. Right by the side of the house here."

Henry looked at his wife quizzically and ran his hand over his chin as they followed the others down the path.

"A monument," Senator Everett said when they stopped, "can be one of several things. Sometimes it's made of marble, sometimes it's merely a picture carried in the mind. It can be something as simple as a bush or a tree. Tom Andrews picked out this because he knew what Bill would like and because I thought I still remembered what you, and others, would want. Not all politicians forget where they came from . . ."

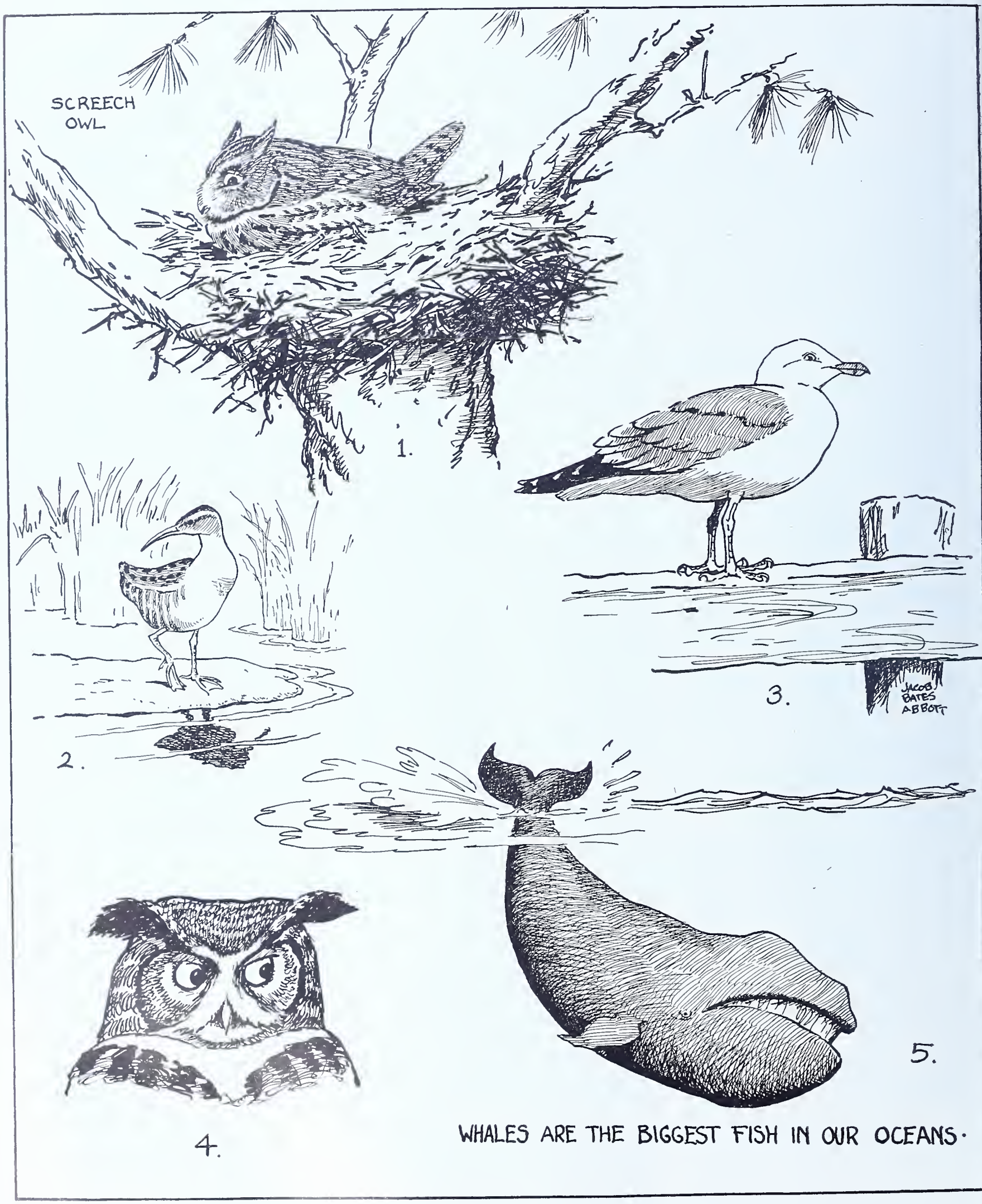
He said some other things, but Mrs. Hooker didn't hear them. She was looking at the little oak tree, wrapped in burlap, that stood in the shadow of the red-and-white house. And the thought came to her that no words on stone could say what it could say, growing in the square for those who had planted it so deep and with such travail.

She looked at Roy Everett with a smile, trying to tell him how sure his instinct had been, trying to say without words the things she and Henry were thinking. Because Henry was thinking right along with her in the same old way.

She could tell by the way he had taken out the pearl-handled knife and was touching it with his stone as he looked at the small, living tree.

**Reprinted from Collier's April 21, 1945**

# WELL! WHAT'S WRONG?




*Answers on Page 29*

## SOIL CONSERVATION SURVEY

Early completion of a state-wide survey on the extent of soil erosion in Pennsylvania was recommended recently by the State Soil Conservation Commission at a meeting held in the office of Chairman Miles Horst, State Secretary of Agriculture.

The Commission received from the agricultural experiment station at the Pennsylvania State College a report on such surveys already made for 16 counties, including data on soil conservation. It was presented by Dean S. W. Fletcher of the School of Agriculture, a member of the Commission. In addition, the Commission received a report on soil erosion and land use conditions made in various parts of the State by the United States Soil Conservation Service.

Chairman Horst said that the Commission desires that erosion surveys be made in remaining parts of the State as soon as possible. Various agencies will be asked to assist.

Requests for information relative to the formation of a County Soil Conservation District under the new soil conservation law passed by the 1945 General Assembly were considered by the Commission. It was the judgment of the Commission that "the most effective procedure for acquainting the people in a county with the steps necessary to affect the organization of a Soil Conservation District is for the local board of county commissioners to call a public meeting at which a representative of the State Commission will be present to explain the law and answer questions."

The Commission established a policy for the recognition of county-wide agricultural organizations for the purpose of the selection by such organizations of representatives to make nominations of members to be chosen by county commissioners to serve on the County Soil Conservation District Board, when established by action of County Commissioners.

October 11 was set by the Commission for its next meeting in Harrisburg.

---

Animal hoofs and horns do not yield glue, but the piths of the horns are good sources of raw material for this widely used material.

**"I just go for exercise. It's unsportsmanlike to shoot them while they're sitting and I can't hit them while they're moving."**

# Get Behind The Hunt Safely Week Program--Week October 22

For the past two years Governor Edward Martin has designated a week in October as "Hunt Safely Week" in order to make the public more accident-conscious and thus reduce hunting casualties. This year the event will be observed during the week of October 22.

Although hunting has less accidents than any other sport, there are still too many. Last year 17 persons were denied the right to hunt for a period of from one to five years as a result of referee hearings. These offenses were:

Discharged gun while attempting to extricate it from brush. The safety was off.

Injured buddy lying on ground about six feet away when carelessly pumping cartridges from a .22 caliber rifle into the ground.

Injured another hunter when he shot at a rabbit which the victim had killed and was in the act of retrieving. The offender and victim were not more than fifteen feet apart.

Gun discharged when hunter slipped while walking about twenty feet in back of another hunter.

Gun discharged while pumping shells. The pellets bounced off the ground and struck another hunter about eight feet away.

Single barrel hammer gun discharged while crawling under barbed wire fence. Its owner suffered the loss of all the fingers on his right hand.

Injured another hunter while unloading his gun which was pointed directly toward the victim.

Stumbled in brush while aiming at rabbit, discharged gun and hit another hunter.

In anxiety to kill pheasant, discharged gun in direction of fellow hunter a short distance away.

Shot at wounded raccoon and struck foot of another hunter about three feet away.

While running in pursuit of a groundhog about five feet from another hunter, tripped on grapevine and discharged .22 rifle, hitting another hunter in the leg.

Discharged a 30/30 while attempting to raise from kneeling position after shooting a deer. Had gun in left hand, which he was using to support himself. Finger was on trigger and pressure discharged gun injuring companion about ten feet away.

Discharged gun while walking through brush, wounding himself in the left shoulder.

Hunting under the influence of liquor.

Gun discharged after fifteen-year-old lad reloaded it—shot struck and injured father.

Discharged hammer gun when taking it down from his shoulder—gun was pointed at another hunter about twenty-five feet away.

Did not place gun on "safe" after shooting at rabbit. Had finger on trigger and accidentally discharged gun, hitting companion about thirty feet away.

These examples are the results of pure carelessness, and every hunter should profit by them.

## GROUNDED FLIER

Residents of a West Philadelphia neighborhood blinked their eyes in amazement one day last July when a white "crane" suddenly appeared in the heart of a residential district.

Employes of the Zoo, who netted the bird, identified it as an American egret very much off its course. Its plumage, legs and bill were coated with oil which explained why it was unable to fly.

Egrets nest in the South but every year the young ones get the wanderlust and they travel northward where they linger until the first frosts chase them back home again.

The oil on the bird probably came from one of the polluted streams of the Philadelphia region or perhaps from a mosquito control area. Many birds of varied species are killed each year by getting smeared with the clinging, sticky fluid.

---

In the past few years the Game Commission has sold more than the average number of licenses. Hunting during the war years has had to be more hurried. Yet the fatalities were only two-thirds of the average for 21 years, which proves that the safety campaign has not been in vain.

Within the next few years the Commission hopes that it can induce so much care and thoughtfulness in the field that at the end of the season the result will be, "No Accidents."

Sportsmen's organizations are urged to plan special programs for "Hunt Safely Week." Last year a great many of them conducted essay and poster contests in the schools. Hunters held special meeting nights for youth groups at which qualified individuals spoke and demonstrated the safe use of firearms. These and many other programs should be stressed again this year. However, they should be planned well in advance of "Hunt Safely Week."

---

Some farmers in early days disinfected grain seed by soaking in sea water.

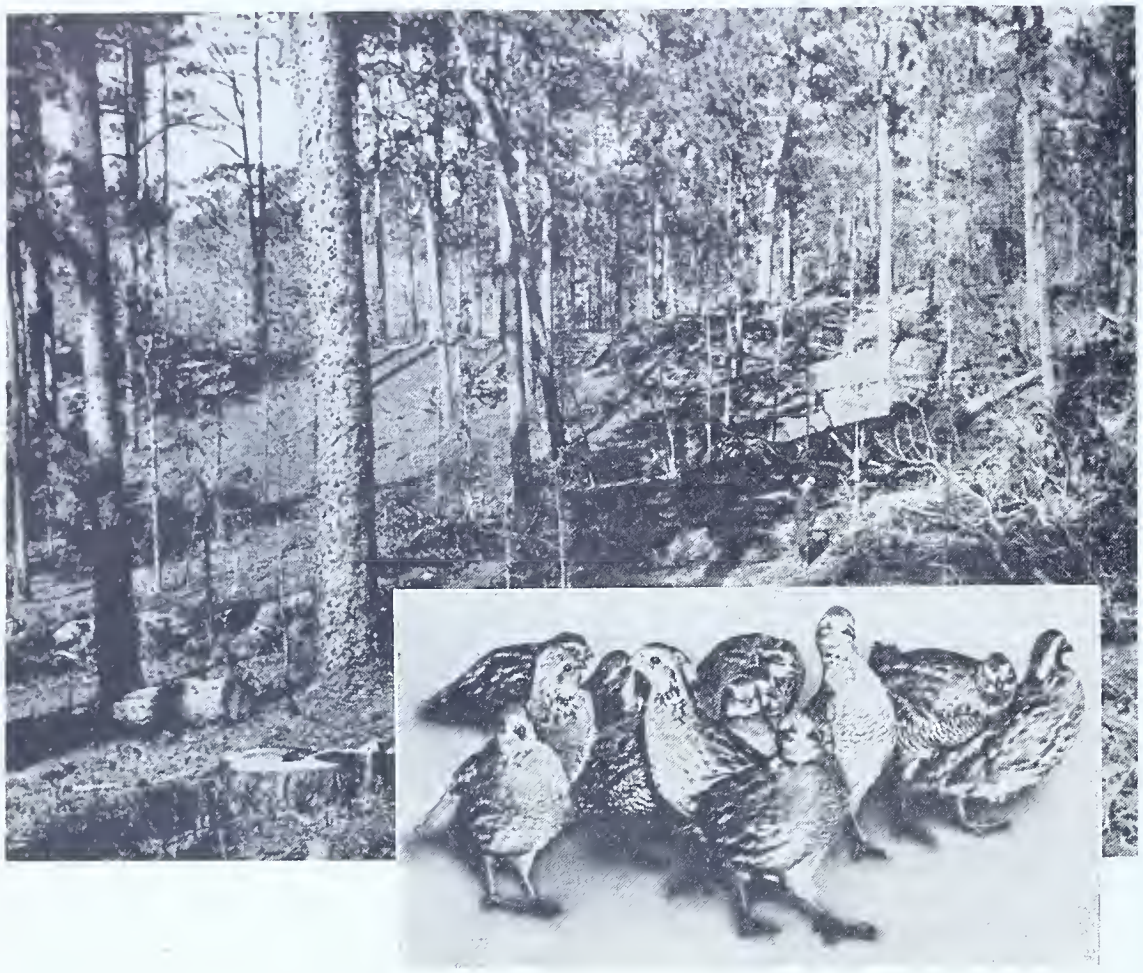
---

When spinning time comes the silkworm, working continuously for three days, produces a cocoon with the reelable thread from 800 to 1200 yards long.

**"I got a swell job at Joe's sport store. It's hard work and it only pays fifty cents a day, but you get your pay in shells."**

# Timber and Game

(From Page 9)



Bobwhite quail spread over most of the United States as logging operations produced the "edge" they sought. The selectively logged Southern pine forest in the background will support quail while an unbroken forest will not.

publicly owned and many privately owned forests designed to make yield perpetual. Inducements to increase such practices among private owners of timberland are manifest almost everywhere.

Just as it was a mistake for society to permit a wasteful form of timber harvest by taking too much and too fast, so it was lack of foresight which, at times and in places, let us take too many birds and animals from existing stocks. What happened to the buffalo and passenger pigeon attests to that. Even today we find in the southern Appalachians far less game than the environment could carry because sufficient protection has not been given wildlife against man, his modern weapons and means of transportation.

But if game populations, *once well established,* are not in part taken either by their natural enemies or by man, a disaster more spectacular than that befalling a mature and uncut forest may be anticipated. And with predator control what it is, and no doubt will be from now on, natural enemies are nowhere, except for brief periods, of marked consequence.

So if—and, remember, we are discussing well established game stocks only—we fail to take a reasonable and regular harvest the result is either waste comparable to letting forest trees fall and rot or else a marked reduction in numbers as starvation, disease or a combination of the two overwhelm them.

Long and able study of the bobwhite quail by H. L. Stoddard has demonstrated that there are levels beyond which abundance simply cannot be crowded. Where stocking is scant an increase may be fast under favorable conditions until certain definite limits are reached. Then it stops dead. Errington and Haverstrom, by the examination of large numbers of coveys over a period of years in Wisconsin and Iowa, have shown that a given piece of quail cover will winter just about so many individuals year after year. If hunting is banned or its success poor and an unusual number of birds go into the winter the surplus is surrendered promptly to enemies or the climate. Again and again, a specific area has wintered just so many birds and no more. If the fall population is cut down below the wintering capacity of the environment, that is one thing. But if the fall population is above the winter maximum and is not reduced, then the difference is simply lost. Your trees, in other words, have fallen down to rot.

We have turned to quail for this example because more is known about quail than any other upland game bird. Wildlife studies take time and peculiar talents. Scarcely a start has yet been made on most forest type game birds although progress is being made in understanding the needs of wild turkey and sharptail grouse. There is no reason to suppose, however, that any basic principles differing markedly from those governing quail abundance will be discovered.

*(To Be Continued Next Month)*

# With Those in the Service

(From Page 17)

"I was fortunate enough to kill a 9-point buck in Potter County the first year I went deer hunting. That year we had seen quite a number of deer. However, I'm sure none were as small as the average deer over here.

"Here's hoping that we can all soon take to the forests of Pennsylvania again, where there is still plenty of game, thanks to our Game Commission."—Cpl. Kern Smith, Co. B, 264th Engr. (c) Bn., APO 403, New York, N. Y.

---

"Germany is a beautiful country. I should say it *was* a beautiful country; the war has made pretty much of a wreck out of it. The German forests are very well cared for and apparently forest conservation has been a standard of procedure over the parts of Germany I have seen. I have pretty well covered the northeastern section. The terrain reminds me very much of the eastern half of Perry County, Pennsylvania. I have not seen many stands of large timber and in many places the forests have been hand planted. The trees have been kept pruned and all underbrush and dead trees have been removed. They have driveable fire trails at regular intervals. In some of the forested areas where heavy fighting occurred, the trees look as though a hurricane went through. I suppose you have read of 'tree bursts.' They occurred when an artillery or mortar shell struck a tree and exploded before it struck the ground. This caused many casualties and destroyed a lot of trees. 'Tree bursts' are dreaded by combat men.

"As a result of the clean forest floors, game conditions are not so good in my estimation. I have been hearing that deer are quite numerous here and I wondered how the forests could support a large deer herd because of lack of food. In recent weeks I have seen hundreds of sets of deer antlers, also some elk antlers that the Germans have saved for trophies and my question has been answered. I have never seen such poorly developed antlers anywhere. I have seen many sets of eight and ten pointers that the main antler was only six to eight inches long. Some G.I.'s argued that they were goat or sheep horns. The majority of elk antlers that I've seen are no larger than those of a large Pennsylvania buck deer.

"Today one of my sergeants was building a box. I asked him what he was going to do with it. He replied, 'Try to send those deer horns home.' I looked and saw that he had a set of elk antlers which had about twelve points and one of the nicest 'racks' I have seen. I informed him that they were elk and not deer antlers. An argument ensued, and because he out-ranked me he won it. Nevertheless, I know I'm right. He had picked up the antlers in some bombed house.

"As time goes by I hope to take more trips through German forests and learn more of the game and forest conditions."—Pvt. Harold E. Russell, Det. 503, M. P. Section, 3rd Reinf. Depot, APO 872, New York, N. Y.

# How Others Are Doing It

(From Page 11)

Conservation Chairmen, Kiwanis Clubs
4-H Club Conservation Camp
4-H Club Leaders
Outdoor Writers Association
Heads of Boy Scout Councils
County School Commissioners Meeting
Land Use Planning Meeting
College Teachers Credit Course
State Librarians
Vocational Educational Leaders
County Clerks Annual Program
State Curriculum Committee
Highway District Engineers
Michigan State Planning Board
State-wide Sportsmen's Meeting
F. F. A. Groups
Chamber of Commerce Secretaries
Governors and State Conservation Committee
Three weekly groups of boys sponsored by Sportsmen's Organizations

Our readers may wonder why a conservation group permits other organizations not primarily interested in conservation to use their buildings and facilities. The Michigan Conservation Department has a reason. Though they permit the visiting groups to conduct their own programs, they stipulate that the Conservation Department be permitted to use one day to put their program across. In this way they hope to interest many who would otherwise be untouched by the fundamentals and importance of conservation. They hope to enlist the aid of many of these people in the various conservation programs, and are creating a favorable public opinion towards law observance and the preservation of the Great Outdoors. In union there is strength.

---

A policy of the U. S. National Park Service is not to disturb the wild animal life in any park until a scientific appraisal has been made of the probable effects of such action.

---

Common tent caterpillars, particularly active on orchard trees in spring and early summer, hatch from egg-masses on twigs; the worms from a single egg-cluster hold togother in building a tent in a crotch in a tree.

---

Solid carbon dioxide (dry ice) is so much denser than gaseous carbon dioxide that it can be used to extinguish fires outdoors in high winds, even gasoline-fed fires in wrecked airplanes.

---

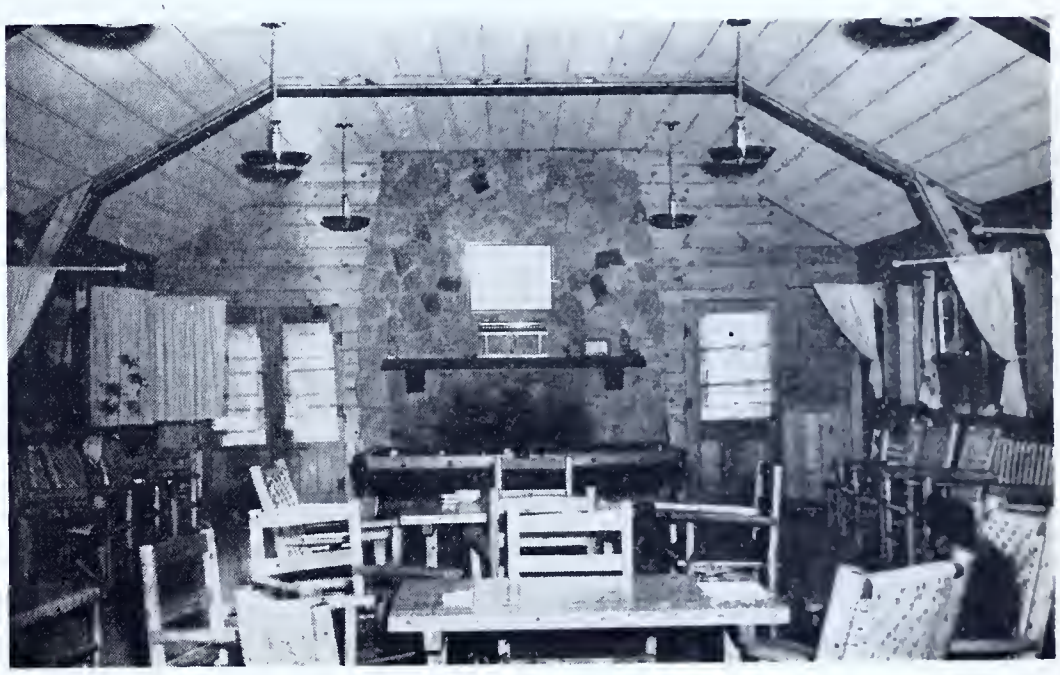
Digger pine, or gray pine, found only in California, bears rich nutlike seeds, on which Indians once subsisted during a part of each year.

---

**ANSWERS TO WHATS WRONG**

1. Screech owls do not nest in open nests in a tree. They use some natural cavity or an old woodpecker's hole.
2. Rails do not have webbed feet.
3. Gulls have webbed feet.
4. Owls' eyes are so fixed in their sockets that they cannot look from side to side by rolling their eyeballs. They must turn their whole head.
5. Whales are not fish; they are mammals. For your information, the largest fish known to man is the whale shark, attaining 90 feet.

Center of Administration Building. Biology teachers in foreground.



Portion of recreation room.

Part of dining room.

## NEW WILDLIFE SECRETARY

C. R. Gutermuth, of Indianapolis, Indiana, was recently appointed Executive Secretary of the American Wildlife Institute, succeeding J. Paul Miller, who resigned last February.

Mr. Gutermuth has been extremely active in conservation affairs for many years, having served nearly ten years as Director of Education and Director of Fish and Game in the Indiana Department of Conservation. Before entering conservation work, he was for twelve years Assistant Cashier of the St. Joseph Valley Bank in Elkhart, Indiana. He is a member of the Indianapolis Press Club and Outdoor Writers Association of America.

## BE WARY—AND BEWARE—OF SOUVENIR GUNS!

The American serviceman is inherently a souvenir collector. This tendency, however, is very apt to prove a disastrous boomerang in many cases if returning soldiers and sailors follow through on what is only a natural inclination and have their captured Japanese and German military rifles converted into sporting firearms chambered for American-made ammunition, according to a Remington Arms Co., Inc., spokesman.

"This is particularly true," he said, "in reference to the Japanese Arisaka rifle. This is a good military rifle for the cartridge for which it was designed, but converting it for the use of American sporting loads is a book of a different binding.

"This gun can be shaped up into a lovely looking little sporter weighing about 7 pounds and giving the appearance of being an ideal deer rifle. It may prove, however, to be a long distance booby-trap and continue to kill Americans long after the war with Japan is ended, for the sportsman who shoots a sporting load in an Arisaka is knocking on the door of his accident insurance adjuster or flirting with a nice quiet spot in a cemetery.

"Japanese arms are not made under the careful manufacturing controls which govern American, British and German manufacture. Some of them might stand conversion to sporting loads, but they are few and far between among the vast numbers of Arisakas of wartime manufacture, which are made of poor metal with inferior workmanship and sloppy fitting.

"Converted rifles are quite likely to be used with loads which develop greater pressures than the cartridge for which the gun was originally designed. There is only one way to tell whether or not a converted Arisaka will stand overpressures, and that is by individual testing. If done properly this might ruin the rifle. If done in an amateurish manner it might be disastrous for the shooter. The best thing to do with a captured Arisaka is to hang it on the wall or put it in the gun-rack as a souvenir. That is the advice of all competent gunsmiths, many of whom consider this rifle more dangerous to the shooter than Damascus barrels on a shotgun.

"The warning holds good for guns picked up in the European theater of war," the Remington authority continued. "Many soldiers have walked into abandoned munitions factories in Germany and helped themselves to what small arms they found. They have no way of knowing whether these guns have ever passed final inspection, whether they've been proof-fired or whether they are 'rejects' due to faulty material, workmanship or mechanism.

"All American-made firearms, with the exception of some .22 caliber rifles, are proof-fired before leaving the factory. The proof-mark stamped upon the barrel indicates that the piece has been fired with a load far heavier than that for which the gun was designed. In the case of Remington Arms Company the proof-mark is the letters REP, contained in an oval, and stamped near the rear of the barrel on the right-hand side. These letters mean 'Remington English Proof.' Other manufacturers use different proof marks.

"Foreign makers have proof marks, too, but the average American gunsmith is not familiar with the various symbols and is unable to determine whether or not the gun has been proof-fired. Such symbols may only mean that the gun has passed final assembly inspection or tested for accuracy, etc.," said the firearms authority.

"The average sportsman has no assurance that these abandoned guns do not have a few parts missing. He is generally satisfied if the gun seems to function properly in 'dry' (unloaded) shooting. His only proof is in firing the piece . . . and then the answer may be in the form of very bad news. Already accidents of this type have been reported.

"Yes," he concluded, "it's best to hang those foreign-made military guns on the wall as trophies and play safe by sticking to the home-grown varieties. There are no booby-traps in American-made guns."

---

Muzzle-loading of firearms reigned from the fourteenth to the nineteenth century—five hundred years, more or less.

* * *

The Ojibway Indian name for the red squirrel is Adjidaumo, meaning, appropriately enough, "tail-in-the-air."

* * *

The Gila monster is the only poisonous lizard in the United States.

* * *

In the Orient the chirping noise of the house cricket is highly appreciated and many households keep them in cages, the cages often elaborately wrought and decorated.

**"Bring your family over for dinner tonight. John's gone skeet shooting and I'm sure he'll bag more than we can eat alone."**

# FARMER-SPORTSMAN PROGRAM

(From Page 5)

terest in the attempts of some of the sportsmen's clubs to propagate and stock quail and ringneck pheasants. One club contracted with farmers in different localities for small feed patches in corners of fields and along fence rows. Farmers have cooperated with many sportsmen's groups in the planting of game foods. This program was not only beneficial to wildlife, but it has relieved depredations on farm crops by hungry birds and mammals.

### A Helping Hand

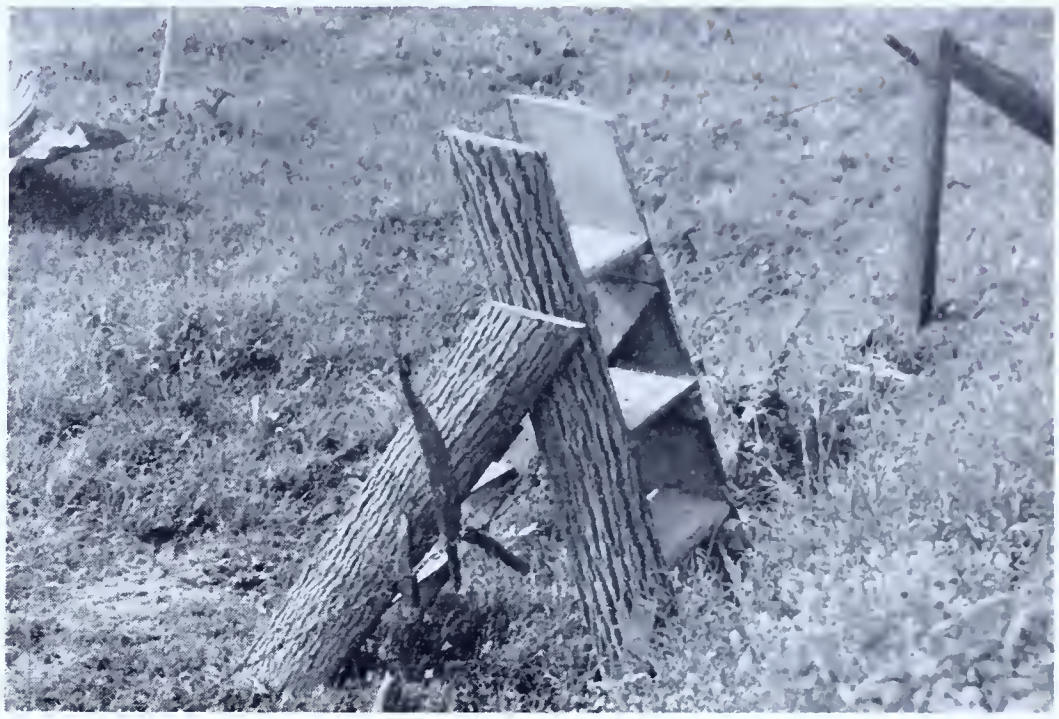
One program of co-partnership between farmers and sportsmen, and one which has possibly been most widely practiced in the state in recent years, started in 1942. With many of the boys in the army, and great numbers of men and women lured to the cities by high-paying war jobs, the farmers were left high and dry to bring in grain and shock and husk corn without adequate help. Many sportsmen's organizations rallied to the cause and offered to spend all the time they could—week-ends and vacations—in the fields helping with the harvests. This was not merely a gesture of cooperation made for a selfish purpose. It was a sincere recognition of the problems confronting the farmer, and a wholehearted desire to lend a helping hand.

The game safety laws are also playing an important part in keeping the relationship harmonious between farmers and sportsmen. For example, not more than five persons are permitted to hunt small game together. Before this law was enacted in 1937, it was not uncommon to see two carloads of from eight to ten fellows line up across a field and comb it from one end to the other, often meeting other large groups coming toward them. This concentration of hunters resulted too often in the near shooting of farmers and their families husking corn or of some of the hunters themselves, to the extent that landowners frowned on the practice so much that the "five men to a hunting party" was instituted.

### Carelessness

Pure carelessness in handling firearms has been one feature in making landowners skeptical of the average gunner. They have observed too often men getting out of their cars, pulling their guns out after them by barrels, loading them in groups with the muzzles pointed toward each other, leaning on the muzzles, pulling their guns through fences by the wrong end, keeping the safety up or hammers cocked as the case may be, and many other crazy, foolhardy things that could well spell "eternity" for some careless hunter or his buddy, or cause the landowner or some member of his family grief. A lot of this carelessness is due to overenthusiasm in the excitement of the chase. It could easily be avoided if the hunter would take his time; and nine chances out of ten by taking his time he would not only help prevent accidents but bag a lot more game than he otherwise would have sacked.

One of the earliest curbs on vandalism and carelessness was the hunting license tag—in fact it was instituted by the farmers themselves for their own protection. As a result more than one vandal or careless shooter has been apprehended and brought to task because some farmer spotted his hunting license number, or that of his automobile.



Sportsmen in some areas have constructed steps over fences at appropriate places on farm lands.

However, the strongest curb the Commission has yet been able to put an maliciousness or carelessness has been the law which provides for the revocation of hunting licenses if property is destroyed or landowners are assaulted, if mishaps in the field can be attributed to carelessness or downright irresponsibility, or if the game laws are violated. As a result of this one law alone, which was established in 1923, 5317 hunters have lost the privilege of hunting for anywhere from one to ten years.

While it is important that hunters handle their guns carefully, it is equally important that they watch where they are walking. Too many fellows are tripped up by briars and are thrown for a serious fall or lose their footing crossing streams by not carefully selecting the proper places. Aside from breaking an arm or a leg, there is always the possibility of getting dirt or mud in the muzzle of the gun which may explode with disastrous results.

### Sound Advice

In a little folder issued to all sportsmen with their hunting licenses, the Commission sets forth a few words of advice that all gunners should apply when hunting on some one else's property. The Commission advises:

"Always ask permission before hunting. Give your name and place of residence.

"Respect the landowner and all occupants of the farm. Courtesy pays big dividends.

"Obey the law! See that others do the same.

"Stay away from the farmer's buildings and livestock while hunting. Never shoot toward his buildings.

"Do not tear down his fences, leave gates open, or shoot his poultry.

"Never hunt with too many dogs.

"Above all keep your dogs out of soybean fields especially during the gunning season. Even while training, farmers do not like to have dogs running through their soy beans. To respect this wish is little enough in return for the privileges the landowner gives you.

"When you finish hunting, thank your host, and offer to share your game with him."

---

## HOW TO WIN FRIENDS AMONG SPORTSMEN

If you want to always have the pleasant company of a good shooting companion, the pleasure of shooting over his dogs and the knowledge of his favorite quail, grouse or pheasant covers, the sincere observance of a few simple rules of field etiquette will turn the trick, according to a Remington Arms spokesman.

"Here are some of them," he said.

"Don't try to handle your companion's dog.

"Never criticize his dog's faults. Praise his good points.

"Give the dog a chance to retrieve your bird. Look for it yourself only as a court of last resort.

"Find out which side your companion prefers to shoot from . . . and take the other side.

"Never shoot at birds flying your companion's way.

"Don't claim birds you are not absolutely sure you killed.

"Give your companion all the breaks.

"Never hunt in your friend's favorite spot which he has shown you, unless he is along or you have his consent.

"Alternate on single shots.

"Above all *never take a chance.* Observe *all the rules of safety.*

"A little extra consideration for the other fellow will win you repeat invitations," he concluded.

# OFFICIAL 1945 OPEN SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS

(All Shooting Hours Based on Eastern War Time—See next issue for time changes.)

Open season includes both dates given, Sundays excepted for game. **On November 1 no hunting of any kind before 9 A. M.** With this exception, shooting hours daily are **8 A. M.** to 6 P. M., except from July 1 to September 30 inclusive, 7 A. M. to 8:30 P. M. (See separate summary for Migratory Game hunting hours; also see Special Regulations for hours to set traps in open counties.) Raccoons may be hunted at night, with a noon-to-noon **daily limit.**

| UPLAND GAME (Small game possession limit two days' bag) | Bag Limits Day | Bag Limits Season | Seasons Open | Seasons Close |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ruffed Grouse | 2 | 8 | Nov. 1 | Nov. 30 |
| Quail, Bobwhite | 4 | 12 | Nov. 1 | Nov. 30 |
| Hungarian Partridges | 2 | 8 | Nov. 1 | Nov. 30 |
| Wild Turkeys (See 7 counties closed)* | 1 | 1 | Nov. 1 | Nov. 30 |
| Ringneck Pheasants, males only | 2 | 8 | Nov. 1 | Nov. 30 |
| Rabbits, Cottontail | 4 | 20 | Nov. 1 | Nov. 30 |
| Squirrels, Gray, Black and Fox | 6 | 24 | Nov. 1 | Nov. 30 |
| Squirrels, Red | Unlimited | | Nov. 1 | Sept. 30, 1946 |
| Grackles (commonly called Blackbirds) | Unprotected | | until September 30, 1946 | |
| Hares (Snowshoe Rabbits) | 2 | 6 | Dec. 17 | Jan. 1, 1946 |
| Raccoons, by individual or hunting party* | 4 | 20 | Oct. 22 | Feb. 1, 1946 |
| Raccoons, by trapping (Statewide)* | | | Nov. 1 | Feb. 1, 1946 |
| Woodchucks (Groundhogs) | Unlimited | | July 1 | Sept. 30 |
| Bear, over one year old, by individual | 1 | 1 | Nov. 26 | Nov. 29 |
| Bear, as above, by hunting party of three or more | 2 | 2 | Nov. 26 | Nov. 29 |
| Deer, male with two or more points to one antler (Statewide), also antlerless deer in that part of southeastern Pennsylvania designated* | 1 | 1 | Dec. 1 | Dec. 15 |
| Deer, as above, by hunting party of six or more | 6 | 6 | Dec. 1 | Dec. 15 |

**NO OPEN SEASON—Sharp-tailed Grouse, Cub Bears and Elk.**

**MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS**—(Seasons fixed by Federal Government. For species and regulations see separate summary.)

**FUR-BEARERS**—(See note under Special Regulations)*

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Minks, Skunks and Otters* | Unlimited | | Nov. 1 | Feb. 1, 1946 |
| Muskrats (By traps only)* | Unlimited | | Dec. 1 | Feb. 1, 1946 |
| Beavers (By traps only)* | | 2 | Feb. 15 | Mar. 1, 1946 |
| Opossums | Unprotected | | until September 30, 1946 | |

### *SPECIAL REGULATIONS

**Turkeys—Counties of Clarion, Forest, Jefferson, McKean, Snyder, Tioga and Warren closed.**

**Raccoon Hunting**—The season begins at noon on the opening date, and ends at **same hour** on the closing date.

**Raccoon Trapping**—Traps not to be placed before 9 A. M., on the opening date **(see instructions** below concerning lifting traps on closing date).

**Deer, Southeastern Pennsylvania, Combined Season**—Both sexes, spike bucks excepted, **may be** killed in the counties of Lancaster, Chester, Montgomery, Delaware, Philadelphia **and** Bucks, also those parts of Dauphin, Lebanon, Berks, Lehigh and Northampton Counties lying south of U. S. Highway Route No. 22, during the regular season without **special** permits. A hunter may kill only one deer and the regular hunting **party limit applies.**

**Beavers**—Statewide trapping permitted, except where dams are posted by Commission. **Non-Residents may not trap beavers.** One person may set, tend or operate 10 traps only. **Traps must not be placed closer than 15 feet** from the waterline on any established beaver **house.** Trappers are required to keep tags above ice or waterline to facilitate identification without disturbing traps. Pelts must be tagged within 10 days after season, and **may** not be sold or otherwise disposed of until properly tagged. Present them to Protector in District or County where trapped.

**Trapping**—Traps for fur-bearers and raccoons not to be placed before 9 A. M. on Nov. 1 or before 8 A. M. on any later opening date for trapping. The season on the **last date** indicated for trapping closes at 12 o'clock noon to permit removal of animals caught on the last night of the season and lifting traps by daylight.

**Snares—No counties open to use of snares.**

**FEDERAL SEASONS MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS**

| | Daily Limits | 1945 Open Seasons |
|---|---|---|
| Rails and Gallinules (except Sora and Coots), combined kinds | 15 | (Sundays Excepted) |
| Sora | 25 | Sept. 1-Nov. 30 |
| Coots | 25 | Sept. 1-Nov. 30 |
| Wild Duck, except American and Redbreasted Mergansers (See Exceptions)* | 10* | Oct. 13-Dec. 31 |
| American and Redbreasted Mergansers | 25 | Oct. 13-Dec. 31 |
| Wild Geese and Brant | 2* | Oct. 13-Dec. 31 |
| Woodcock | 4 | Oct. 10-Oct. 24 |
| Doves | 10 | Nov 1-Nov. 30 |

*Exceptions—The regular daily duck limit of 10 shall not include more than one (1) Wood Duck. In addition to the daily limit for Geese or Brant, 4 Blue Geese and Snow Geese (either singly or in the aggregate), may be taken. **Possession Limit:** Ducks, Geese, Brant and Woodcock, twice the daily bag (except on opening day), but only one (1) Wood Duck. No possession limit after first day on American and Redbreasted Mergansers. Other migratory game birds, daily bag only. Possession 90 days after season.

No Open Season—Wilson's Snipe (Jacksnipe), Ross's Geese and Swans.

Shooting Hours—(Eastern War Time). All migratory game birds: From beginning of respective open reasons to October 31 inclusive, one-half hour before sunrise to sunset; November 1, 9 A. M. to 6 P. M.; November 2 to end of respective seasons, 8 A. M. to 6 P. M. (unless sunset occurs earlier, when Federal sunset regulation automatically applies). Exception: On the open waters of Lake Erie and the open tidal waters of the Delaware River lying within the Commonwealth from Trenton Falls to the Delaware State line not including inland tidal water), when shooting from boats or blinds at least 100 yards from shore, the Federal one-half hour before sunrise to sunset regulation applies throughout the waterfowl season, except on November 1, when shooting before 9 A. M. is unlawful.

## CONSERVATION LABORATORY

*(Continued from Page 21)*

Dr. Hardy L. Shirley, Philadelphia—Director, Northeast Forestry Experiment Station, U. S. Forestry Service;

Mrs. R. W. Stadden, Bartonsville—Conservation Chairman, Pennsylvania Parks Association;

Robert Steventon, Nesquehoning—Educational Conservation Director, Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs;

Ernest Swanger, Lebanon—Secretary-Treasurer, Pennsylvania Division, Izaak Walton League of America;

Dr. M. R. Trabue, State College—Dean, School of Education;

J. K. Vessey, Philadelphia—Assistant Regional Forester, United States Forest Service (Philadelphia Office);

George Welsh, Philadelphia—President, Friends of the Land;

Dr. Edgar T. Wherry, Philadelphia—Department of Botany, University of Penna.

Carl W. Wild, Harrisburg—Assistant Senior Research, State Planning Board; and

George H. Wirt, Harrisburg—Chief, Div. of Protection, Dept. of Forests and Waters.

(The foregoing submitted by Ellen A. Dietrich, Secretary).

---

Tennessee is the country's leading state in the number of European wild boars, the herd now numbering approximately 500. New Hampshire has a herd of about 200.

* * *

No state in the Union is entirely without some big game, although the white-tail deer population of Kansas is only 15 and Delaware has only 19. The white-tail population of Pennsylvania is estimated at 750,000.

---

**Note—Last month the printer erred by using the wrong pictorial section on the third cover. That was unfortunate because it was the first of a series in which our photographer plans to make comments to help improve the quality of the pictures. The pictorial which should have appeared is opposite and the caption below fully explains it.**

**The photos in the opposite layout were all submitted for publication within the past several weeks. In looking over them our photographer noted errors in composition that are common to all snapshots. With the idea of helping to improve not only the quality of future contributions to the magazine, but the contents of their owner's albums, our photographer offers his impressions of them.**

**Top left: Not bad, a nice bear, a clear photo that will reproduce clearly. Top right: Good photo of feeding shelters but men should have been grouped on the sides so that they could be recognized. Center left: A poor background. Not only does the pelt of the animal blend into the man's clothing, but the large tree in the background looks as if it is sprouting from his head. Center: Here half the picture is foreground, and the deer has lost part of its antlers. By moving a few paces to the right the windows of the house would not have been directly in back of the deer, thereby improving the background. The windows detract from the main object being photographed. Right center: This picture could have been improved by moving back a few steps to take in the entire deer. Bottom left: Here is an ordinary photograph of a dead deer with a house in the background. Apparently there is some very fine action going on in back of the tree. I believe the lady is helping to hang up a bear or another deer. See if you can figure it out. The whole action should have been close-up. Bottom right: The edge of the building sticking out in this picture does nothing to improve its composition. The photographer could have moved to the left and made his photo of the deer hunters with a woods background.**

# PICTORIAL

BUY MORE

BONDS

AND

HOLD ON

TO THEM

# PENNSYLVANIA Game News

Pennsylvania State Library
by CULLING SECTION

8.34
1.6
1.2

October 1945 Ten Cents

# PENNSYLVANIA GAME NEWS

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION, HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

EDWARD MARTIN, GOVERNOR

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

Ross L. Leffler, *President* .....Pittsburgh
Robert Lamberton, *Vice-President* .....Franklin
Col. Nicholas Biddle .....Bethayres
G. I. Phillips .....Alexandria
Harold Moltz .....Williamsport
Dr. H. E. Kilgus .....Brockway
John C. Herman .....Dauphin
B. K. Williams .....East Stroudsburg

Administrative Office

Seth Gordon .....*Executive Director*
R. A. McCachran .....*Assistant Director*

Division of Lands

W. Gard. Conklin .....*Chief*

Division of Accounting & Budget

N. E. Slaybaugh .....*Comptroller*

Division of Public Information

Leo A. Luttringer, Jr. .....*Chief*
*Editor,* Pennsylvania Game News

Training

W. M. Cramer .....*Supt. Training School*

Bureau of Field Operations

Division of Law Enforcement

W. C. Shaffer .....*Chief*

Division of Land Management

James N. Morton .....*Chief*

Division of Research
(Vacancy)

Propagation & Distribution

Earl S. Greenwood .....*Acting*

Field Division Supervisors

Division "A"—M. J. Golden, 602 Penn Ave., West Reading, Pa.
Berks, Bucks, Chester, Dauphin, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, York.

Division "B"—Jay C. Gilford, Wyoming Ave. and Welles St., Forty Fort, Pa.
Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming.

Division "C"—Thomas F. Bell, 352 E. 3rd St., Williamsport, Pa.
Bradford, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga, Union.

Division "D"—William J. Davis, 327 Penn St., Huntingdon, Pa.
Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry.

Division "E"—M. E. Sherman, 1 E. Du Bois Ave., Du Bois, Pa.
Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, Potter.

Division "F"—Hayes T. Englert, 14 W. 1st St., 2d Floor, S. S. Oil City, Pa.
Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, Warren.

Division "G"—Rollin Heffelfinger, 405 Main Street, 2d Floor, McClellan Bldg., Irwin, Pa.
Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, Westmoreland.

## HOW TO SUBSCRIBE

RATES—$0.50 per year to residents of Pennsylvania, regardless of address. $1.00 per year for Non-Residents of Pennsylvania. (Out-of-State, District of Columbia Canadian or Foreign.) Club rates are available to organizations presenting 10 or more subscriptions in a single order. Remittances by check or money order to be made payable to the Department of Revenue, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. CASH FORWARDED AT SENDER'S RISK. STAMPS NOT ACCEPTED. Your local Game Protector, County Treasurer or other Hunting License Issuing Agent will take your subscription; or you may forward it direct to the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.

Please report all changes of address promptly, sending both your old and new addresses.

Please address *all* communications to the Editorial Office.

Publication office, Cameron and Kelker Sts., Harrisburg, Pa.

Executive and editorial office, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.

Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, under Act of March 3, 1879.

Permission to reprint will be granted provided proper credit is given.

Mailed in conformity with P.O.D. Order No. 19687.

VOL. XVI, NO. 7

# EDITORIAL

October, 1945

## IN THIS ISSUE


**Your Game Protector Is a Regular Guy**
By Jacob Bates Abbott

★

**Now It Can Be Told**
By W. C. Shaffer

★

**An Accounting to the Sportsmen**
By Nelson E. Slaybaugh

★

**Grass Roots of the Future**
By Paul F. Roller

★

**Timber and Game—Twin Crops**
By Harold Titus

★

**Well, What's Wrong?**
By Jacob Bates Abbott

★

**The Records of a Professional Duck Hunter**
By Harold B. Wood

★

**Dogs Are Conservationists**

★

**Recommendations on Research**

★

**Cover of Black Bear**
By Jacob Bates Abbott


★

## A Triple Play

There are three excellent ways for sportsmen's organizations to provide more game and more open shooting grounds if they are seriously interested in improving hunting conditions generally, i. e.:

1. Cooperate with the Game Commission this winter in live-trapping rabbits, pheasants and other small game from areas where no shooting is permitted and transferring them to sections where public hunting is allowed.
2. Raise day-old pheasant chicks furnished by the Commission from its several game farms.
3. Encourage more landowners to cooperate in the establishment of wildlife projects.

All three of these programs will be expanded and carried on more assiduously in the future than ever before. The degree of success with which they are conducted, however, will depend upon the number of associations which take part in and the energy they put behind them.

Last winter the live game trapping program netted over 40,000 good healthy bunnies for public shooting—disease free animals superior to any which were previously purchased in western states for double the trapping costs. If more clubs, Scouts and individuals cooperate in this big dividend-paying undertaking this winter, there is no reason why 80,000 or 100,000 rabbits should not be removed from restricted areas where they invariably cause damage, and released where gunning pressure has reduced the supply or where there never were too many in the first place.

Last year sportsmen's organizations raised more than 20,000 ringneck pheasants from day-old chicks supplied from the State Game Farms. This year the number can be doubled, possibly tripled, if more clubs will help. There will be an unlimited number of day-old chicks available and the Commission hopes clubs which have been receiving six-week old birds in the past will willingly forego these allottments in favor of the more fruitful and very little more expensive day-old program.

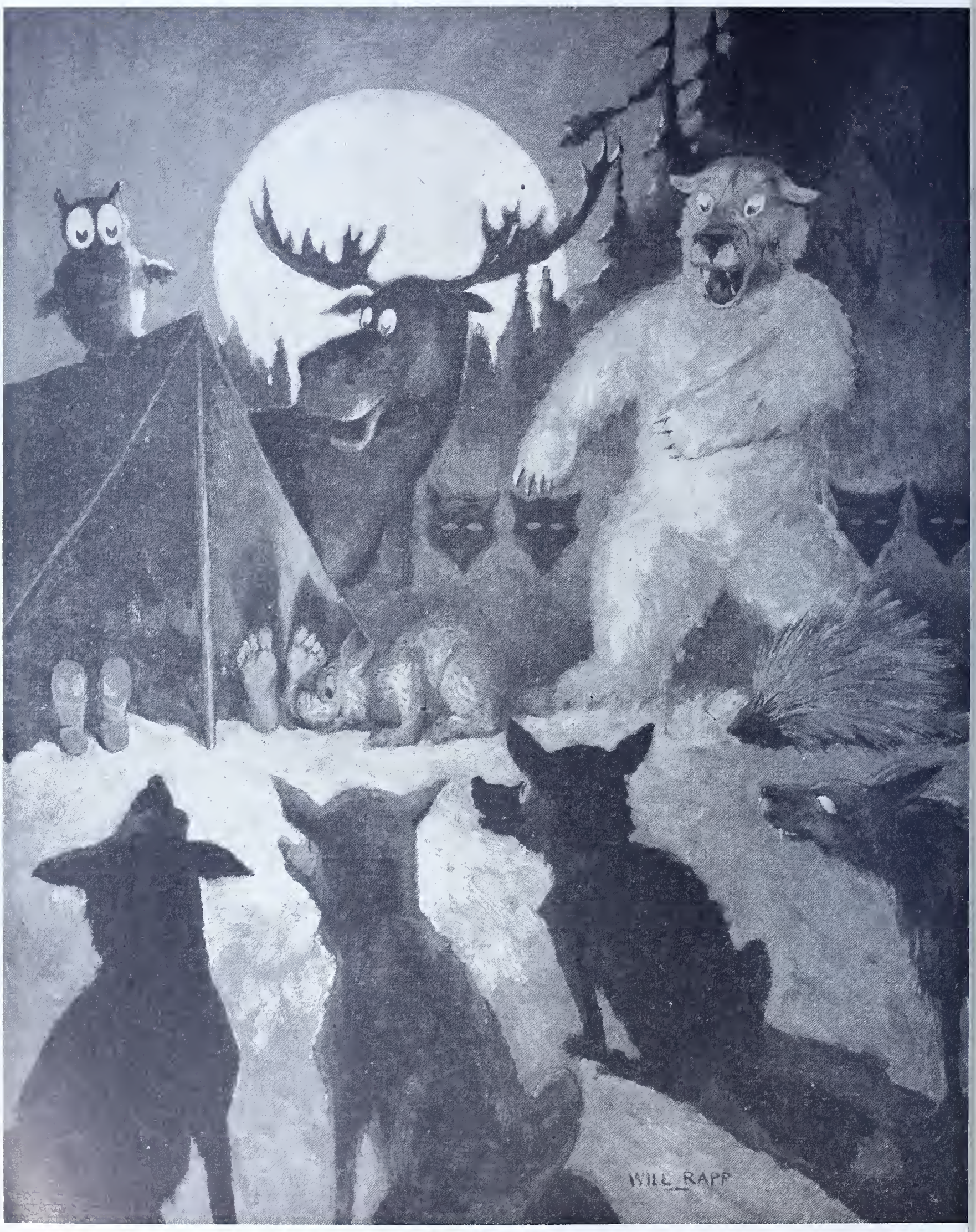
The Commission is going to expand its Cooperative Farm-Game Program wherever possible but sportsmen's groups locally can help greatly to influence farmer friends to open their lands to public shooting under the safety zone and other beneficial features provided in the cooperative agreement. Clubs also can and are urged to encourage farmers to establish Special Wildlife Refuge Projects which provide essentially the same benefits under cooperative agreements between them and the landowners.

Timely notices on all three of these important methods of providing more game to hunt and more places in which to hunt it will appear in following issues and in special communications addressed to all club secretaries from time to time. Don't overlook these splendid opportunities to improve your sport.

★

**NEW COMMISSIONER**

**We take great pleasure in welcoming Mr. B. K. Williams, East Stroudsburg, into our official family. Governor Martin appointed him a Commissioner on October 8 to succeed Dr. Carl B. Rosankrans, deceased. Regrettably we received the information too late to do more than get his name on the masthead and publish this brief announcement. Commissioner Williams will be introduced more fittingly in the next issue.**




A Hunter's Nightmare. By Will Rap

# YOUR GAME PROTECTOR IS A REGULAR GUY

## *If He Means Gestapo To You, There's Something Wrong—With YOU!*

**By Jacob Bates Abbott**

WHEN you've pulled a fast one on somebody or done something you're ashamed of, you usually imagine that your best friends are doing some tongue-clicking or head-shaking about you and you begin to build up such a defense to cover up your own short-comings that you'll duck down a side street to avoid meeting one of them. Those who would do the most to help you become tough, hard-boiled guys (in your mind), who are out to get you. Finally, through the tangle of your warped mental process, you reach the conviction: "I'll get even with that — — —!" Of course, right from the beginning, you were the one to blame.

Thus it is that only in the mind of some over-anxious game hog who has slaughtered a boat load of ducks or has a couple of does hung up in his barn is the Game Protector an ogre, S.S. Trooper or Gestapo Agent. To the true sportsman—and may his number increase!—the Game Protector is a friend, adviser, fellow conservationist and teammate. Just here it might be in order to define this word that is so broadly in use to denote anybody with a gun in his or her hand. The late W. T. Hornaday's (one of the greatest of them) definition is about as good as any I know. He says, in his "Our Vanishing Wild Life": "A gentleman sportsman is a man who protects game, stops shooting when he has enough—without reference to the legal bag-limit—and, whenever a species is threatened with extinction, he conscientiously refrains from shooting it."

These are the men who have done the most to put upon our statute books the laws that thus far have saved some of our American game from total annihilation and who will be instrumental in tightening the lines of protection around the remnant. These are the men who are making and stocking game preserves, public and private, great and small."

It will interest GAME NEWS readers that Dr. Hornaday, as far back as 1908-1912, had the greatest respect for what Pennsylvania was doing toward game preservation and a warm personal friendship for those fighting, pioneer Commissioners, Hon. John M. Phillips and Dr. Joseph Kalbfus.

Your Game Protector, and I say "your" because that is just what he is, protects YOUR game. He is the liaison officer between the

Game Commission and you. He is your friend and the friend of the wildlife that he protects. Furthermore, he is a skilled outdoorsman and has been through a difficult course of intensive training to learn his job. As W. M. Cramer says: "He is not what boys usually mean when they say 'cop.' He is not a Game Warden who locks game behind bars and tries to see how soon he can arrest someone trying to get it. . . . He distributes game, feeds game, studies game and hunting conditions, improves game habitat, traps and transfers game, cooperates with farmers and constantly endeavors to better farmer-sportsmen relationships; he is a public relations expert, indeed he is a kindly guardian of human and wildlife interests and intelligently interested in song and insectivorous bird protection . . . he is a true friend—to the boy and girl—to the farmer—to the sportsman—to the general public; in fact to everyone but the game hog and fellow who cheats . . ."

Pretty much of an all-around guy—what? And in the next few months, as they come back to take up their old jobs, you'll find many of them who know something about hunting Krauts and Nips and have got a Purple Heart or two stuck away among their souvenirs.

I understand that up in Maine they are called Wood Dicks, and if you know your comic strips (Dick Tracy) you know that "dick" is double talk for detective. Well, right here in Pennsylvania they know how to do detective work in the woods when the need for it arises. Again to quote Wilbur Cramer, who has a good way of putting things and who should know since he is the boss of the Training School: "Hunting is a game, like football, baseball and other sports. There are certain rules for playing the hunting game. These are known as Game Laws and the Game Protector is the umpire to see that the rules are obeyed—to see that each hunter is treated fairly and that those who violate the rules of the game and cheat (not the Game Protector but their fellow hunters) are brought to justice . . ."

But this is the part of his job that your Game Protector enjoys the least. What he likes is to tramp through the painted October woods and hear the whir of rising grouse; to watch the oriental splendor of the cock pheasant as he rockets up from the yellow corn sheafs; to stand breathlessly in the deep winter woods as he observes that sight of a lifetime—a hibernating mother bear and her cub in some snow-filled hollow; to see the cloven prints of white tails in the powdery blanket covering the aisles between the hardwoods. These are the things that bring the thrill of living and exultation in his job to your Game Protector.

Remember, also, that he, like you, is a very human person. Just as you have, he has his everyday problems. Maybe his little girl has the croup, perhaps he's having trouble with his furnace, his wife has to struggle with red points just as yours does, he's anxiously waiting for a letter from that boy of his, sweating it out in the Pacific, just as you are; AND, believe me, his life is no bed of roses, anymore than yours is.

Get to know him better, and, if your conscience is clear every time you see him, you will find, if you are a sportsman, conservationist or farmer, that your Game Protector is one of the best friends you've got.

---

**Be sure to read the article on the next page by W. C. Shaffer, Chief of the Division of Law Enforcement of the Game Commission. It tells the inside story of the cooperation which Game Protectors gave the F. B. I. during the war.**

**Incidentally the publisher omitted crediting Mr. Shaffer's article "Papp's Ghost Talks Enforcement," in last month's issue of "Hunting and Fishing Magazine" from which it was reprinted with permisison. Sorry it happened.**

# "NOW IT CAN BE TOLD"

**By W. C. Shaffer***

PENNSYLVANIA sportsmen have a thoroughly justifiable right to be extremely proud of the military service rendered by the employes of the Pennsylvania Game Commission during World War II.

The Commission's official records reveal that seventy-four (74) employes have been, or are at the present time, faithfully and honorably serving their Country. One of this number, Colonel Nicholas Biddle, is a Member of the Commission. He was honorably discharged, recently, following a long overseas assignment. Many of the employes entered the services by voluntary enlistment. Thirteen (13) the Commission's employes hold commissions, while sixteen (16) are "non-coms." The scale ranges from plain "G.I.'s," and "Gobs," to "Colonel." A goodly percentage served overseas and many of them are still there.

The Commission's employes are enrolled in almost every branch of the Army, Navy and Marines. Air corpsmen, Military Police, Criminal Investigators, Instructors in many fields, Intelligence, Cryptanalysts, Photographers, Research workers, Advocate General's Department, Gunnery, Pilots, Bombardiers, and many others too numerous to mention—all are identified.

Each loss was keenly felt, particularly those of the field service, where replacements were both difficult to secure and available material extremely limited in number.

Competent replacements through the ranks of Deputy Game Protectors were made doubly difficult. Many of these men were engaged in defense work of one character or another and could not effect their release. Others, because of economic responsibilities, could not give consideration to the temporary employment. It was necessarily temporary in its character, because the law compels the Commission to retain the position of a salaried employe, subject to his election to return to his former position upon discharge from the service. The Commission was fortunate, however, to recruit a nucleus of Deputies to fill some of these vacancies, often resulting in a financial loss to the temporary employe. Let me say, unhesitatingly, and without fear of contradiction, "These men have done, and are still doing a swell job, working hard, and devoting long hours to their assignments. They have been faithful and loyal to the Commission and the sportsmen of the State. Certainly they are more than entitled to a vote of thanks and appreciation, for they have carried on, often under most trying and difficult circumstances." Most of them were not familiar with the multitudinous problems of a Game Protector or the maintenance of essential records.

Several months ago a friend remarked to me, "The Game Protectors in the service have done a swell job—but its too bad that the talents of those *not inducted* were *wasted.*" At the time the statement was made I could do nothing but mildly bite my lower lip and agree with him, for reasons the reader will discover later in this article.

On September 6, 1939, the President of the United States placed the full responsibility for maintaining the internal security of this Country in the hands of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The task was a huge and delicate one.

Many lessons learned from World War I were quickly recalled. During that war, lacking organization, innumerable citizens, intentionally or otherwise, became private detectives, spying, interrogating, frequently without rhyme or reason, often upon their next door neighbor, suspicious of any word, thought or action, that in his or her opinion constituted a real or imaginary threat against this Country. "Witch Hunting" was the sole result of their energies. Those who possessed valuable information did not know to whom it should be reported, and by the time the proper source was discovered it was often too late to be of much value.

The F.B.I. approached their newly assigned and gigantic task with calm, deliberate precision. Their basic plan was simple enough, "use the organized and disciplined police facilities of the entire country."

In Pennsylvania there are two geographic jurisdictions within the F.B.I. The State is divided into an eastern and western half, the line of demarcation running almost through the central part of the State from north to south, and follows County lines. The Eastern headquarters are located at Philadelphia, the Western at Pittsburgh.

In August 1940, Samuel J. McKee, was then Special Agent in Charge of the Western District with headquarters at Pittsburgh. McKee was quietly but diligently building

*(Continued on page 25)*

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

March 23, 1943

Mr. W. C. Shaffer, Chief
Division of Law Enforcement
Pennsylvania Game Commission
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Shaffer:

Mr. J. E. Thornton, Special Agent in Charge of our Pittsburgh Field Division, has brought to my attention the splendid cooperation you are demonstrating in the handling of cases referred to you by his office.

I wanted to write you this personal note and tell you how deeply I appreciate the spirit of you and your men in working so closely with us today. It is so imperative that law enforcement stand together in meeting the grave responsibilities brought by this war. Your untiring efforts certainly are creditable, and the members of your staff are to be complimented on their accomplishments.

With best wishes and kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

* Chief, Division of Law Enforcement.

Photo by W. L. R. Drake.

# AN ACCOUNTING TO THE SPORTSMEN

**By Nelson E. Slaybaugh***

SINCE we made our last report to you in September 1944 we won a complete victory over two aggressor nations, and are now awaiting an even greater achievement—a just and durable peace. We are thinking of happier days ahead, families reunited after years of separation, and the fulfillment of future plans.

Thousands of Pennsylvania's fine sportsmen who served their country so heroically during the conflict will have an opportunity this year to enjoy their favorite recreation—hunting. Many others still in the service of the country will have to forego this privilege for the present. Those who made the supreme sacrifice have gone to another happy hunting ground.

Sportsmen in the service find relaxation in spinning yarns about shooting and fishing and it is not unusual for such conversations to develop into friendly discussions. During these debates Pennsylvania's service men and women always get in a good word for the old Keystone State, and many times write to the Game Commission for information and statistics to help win their point.

We are happy to know they have faith in us and in our administration of their affairs. Managing wildlife is a big business with many problems, but the Commission is trying to spend the hunter's money as wisely as possible to provide more game for him to shoot. Following is a complete accounting of the manner in which the sportsmen's dollar was invested for the year which ended May 31, 1945.

### Income

During the year which ended May 31, 1945, the income from all sources credited to the Game Fund amounted to $1,559,007.94 (See Table No. 4 for details). This is an increase of $55,887.09 over the year which ended May 31, 1944. In comparing the revenue for the year under review with the 1940-41 fiscal year, when an all-time record was established, we find there was a decrease of $99,730.83.

The bulk of the revenue amounting to $1,334,609.95, was derived from the sale of hunting licenses. During 1944, on the basis of incomplete reports (subject to slight final settlement changes), there were 592,220 Resident and 13,969 Non-Resident Licenses issued, a total of 606,189.

### Expenditures

The expenditures for the year which ended May 31, 1945 totaled $1,248,080.67 (See Table No. 4 for details), or $64,597.54 in excess of the previous year. Curtailed or even suspended programs caused by priorities, shortage of labor, etc., as was the case during the past several years, account for more than the normal difference between "income" and "expenditures". This difference cannot be considered an operating surplus, but in reality a commitment against the postwar program. Because of priorities, shortage of labor, etc., expenditures for capital items had to be drastically cut during the war. This has resulted in an accumulation, including construction and major repairs, also purchase of equipment. It is obvious that it will be impossible to finance all of such projects from current revenues. These obligations have been provided for by the creation of a "Wartime Reserve," the details of which are explained elsewhere in this article.

A total of $402,186.80 was expended for the purchase and maintenance of State Game Lands and Refuges which operations are paid out of an earmarked fund within the Game Fund. From each $2.00 fee paid for a Resident Hunter's License seventy-five cents is set aside for the purchase and maintenance of State Game Lands and Refuges. This fund is also credited with the sale of wood products from lands, etc. At the end of the period under review, the Commission owned or had under its control 1,065,211 acres of game lands. The Commission does not pay taxes, but in lieu thereof it pays fixed charges on State Game Lands. This item of expense amounted to $37,457.32 for the year which ended May 31, 1945.

### Composite Statement

Table No. 1, which accompanies this article has been brought up-to-date to include the year which ended May 31, 1945. The percentage of the total expended for each of the major functions changes slowly, in relation to the total, as is to be expected. During the 25½ year period the Commission

*(Continued on page 20)*

* Chief, Division of Accounting and Budget.

Photo by Dr. C. S. Apgar.

**How many miles of shore line must we hav to preserve our right to future fishing?**

surface, has been laid. Friends and group of friends of Nature's America become mor numerous, and governmental department and scientific groups have done some fin work in pointing out the dangers that li ahead, and to a certain degree, in suggestin effective ways of meeting them. But th problems are vast and intricate and th necessary component parts for a synthesis c effort are still lying about in process c formation without a present ability or en ergy to bring them together.

One might wish for an omnipotent an omniscient power to direct and dictate th path that true conservation must take, mas terfully handling the many reins, tightenin up a bit here, giving a bit there, until a of the delicate interrelations have been satis fied. But we know that success will com only through trial and error, through th efforts of those who have pioneered becaus of their convictions and who because of thei faith will not let go; of those who becaus

# GRASS ROOTS OF THE FUTURE

**By PAUL F. ROLLER**

## AWAY FROM THE CROWD

### How many acres of wild land must we have if each American is to preserve his ancestral right to hunt and to angle?

IN THE late summer of '42 I was standing near the railway station of a mountain town in Northern California. Beside me was a handsome young private, on leave from duty with the Army Air Corps. With that perfect ease that servicemen have, he entered into conversation with me.

Naturally, talk was first about his home town, which was Ashland, Oregon, and which I was given to understand, had the finest municipal park and water system of any city of its size in America. One could see that he was a mountain boy and that love of the mountain country would be in his blood forever. Then he looked out at the evergreen mountain slopes nearby and said with a wistfulness that revealed it to be the climax of many home-sick dreamhours in camp, "I'd like to go right out there and take a bite out of those pines!"

For a long time I could not get this heartfelt expression of a soldier's longing out of my mind. While it quite graphically related itself to the physical present it also by degrees came to suggest an imperative for the future—to the pines that are, and to the pines that must and shall be. The soldier took the pines for granted. I wondered, "Can it be that he himself must play a major part in their survival?"

*Reprinted Courtesy Outdoor America*

Progressively it has become more and more significant that the acme of delight for a soldier should be to take a figurative bite out of pines in perspective. For who has ever by necessity attained such a close affinity between himself and the earthly universe, between himself and Mother Earth, as the soldier? His daily survival depends upon the protection she affords, his crude comfort depends upon his intimate adjustment to primeval things, his dreams depend upon a brighter world that the elemental earthiness around him can only suggest, the reality of the flowers and the promise of the grass-roots of his native land. Sometimes upon his miraculous return from a tortured Europe or jungle terrors he expresses himself in the most natural way he knows how; he kneels down first thing to kiss the very soil itself.

Perhaps in this devotion to the cosmic heart of things by the best of our returning young men may lie the key to the problems that confront America's true conservationists. Some ground-work for saving and restoring our physical world, our land conceived as a physical portion of the earth's of that faith and conviction have converte many fellow citizens into becoming as un compromising as they themselves. A seriou question remains unanswered, "Can tha conversion be rapid enough, in a democ racy such as ours, to accomplish the neces sary results in time?"

What is needed in the field is a new forc that has vision, vitality, a practical potenti and moral power to speak with authorit Who could better supply that power tha those of our young men and women wh against the background of the whole worl have learned how infinitely precious is th earthly survival, how infinitely imperati must be the future grass-roots of the lan of their fathers?

If these men were to realize how frighter ingly efficient saw-mills can be in a populou land where less than a fourth of the origin timber remains—and were to demand a vi tual halt until a tremendous reforestatic can assure itself, maintaining that in th meantime we should import lumber fro debtor nations—how many would there b to ridicule the demand? And if they we to point with scorn at our open-sewer rive and were to insist that nationwide steps b undertaken to assure that the Father Waters, among others, should again "flo

**low many acres of wildland must we have t assure good hunting in the future?**

troubled to the sea"—who would there be t gainsay the insistence?

We have been told that the fellows in the vice this time really have their feet on e ground. Given the facts there should many champions among them to furnish e dynamic authority for one of the cornerones of the Izaak Walton creed—that agriulture by no means necessarily represents e best or most profitable employment for given piece of land. It would be well if ospective farmers among returning serviceen could learn this fact in advance, for would prevent many heart-aches for emselves and their families and a great al of destruction of the country's watered to which wild nature has a prior claim. ell-intentioned lobbyists among their own teran groups, interested promoters, and liticians notwithstanding, the fact remains at an American land frontier for farming today almost non-existent. Sincere and triotic farmers "in the know" realize this d know how unjust it would be to place terans in marginal areas where the most perienced growers of food and fiber would bound to fail.

These farmers, and competent advisers, commend that lands now ruined by margal farming in the past be allowed to go ck to native grasses and timber, and that ose living an aboriginal existence on them educated to seek a better life on fewer res in a new location.

Prof. George S. Wehrwein, agricultural onomist at the university of Wisconsin, as ferred to in a western growers' trade agazine, contends that "foreign agriculture ill come back quickly, and that domestic griculture must be helped to adjust itself a decreased market." He forsees a shrinkg of farm acreage rather than an expansion nd suggests that veterans be urged "to buy ood farms from retiring owners." Whoever disregards the rock-bottom facts about e future of farming in his advice to vetrans does both the veterans and his country distinct disservice.

But if practical farming along conventional nes is rather limited in promise for the eteran he need not despair of opportunity related outdoor vocations. And it is just ere that the moral dynamic of his power nd authority are most sorely needed in the eclamation and restoration of the America f his dreams. Rather than in trying to lace himself and his fellows on marginal nd red-ink farms he may find that his alents, his eloquence, and the pressure of is group can more profitably be employed helping to promote other more vitally eeded outdoor activities.

If in agriculture, for example, emphasis to be on the qualitative because an unestricted extension is no longer in the naional best interest, there should be opporunity here for more assistants to the farmer n matters of conservation and rebuilding. As a case in point the vocation of Hardwood orester suggests itself. If overproduction n prairie and valley lands shows signs of ermanency so that to produce means to lestroy, and to fritter away the soil fertility

Photo by W. L. R. Drake.

to no good purpose, perhaps these assistants in conservation can work out a plan to give a percentage of our cultivated lands back again to the hickories, the oaks, the maples, and the walnuts, of which they were denuded for less valuable and less inspiring crops. Government subsidies could probably solve the problems of surpluses more easily, cheaply and in the public interest by this means than by any so far adopted.

Reforestation in its broader aspects has been touched on. Tremendous reforestation is needed in America, on a scale hitherto undreamed of. I once heard a forester say that no civilization has ever yet survived the disappearance of its forests. Unless we want to try out the truth of that statement by our national experience we shall need a most heroic timber policy very soon. Forestry, if developed on the needed scale, will open many thousands of inspiring jobs to the young men of tomorrow. Unlike in the manufacturing game, here mass production and mechanization will never play an overwhelming role. In the culture of all trees there must be a great deal of scientific study and a great deal of individual treatment and care.

To him who is devoted to nature's outdoors nowhere in America is the need for the well-being of our physical world more urgent than in the matter of a system for proper disposal of our sewage and our industrial toxins and wastes. It is possible for science to solve this problem and, I understand, even to make it economically profitable; and the requirements of such a vast undertaking would present many other types of work and a healthy challenge to our people at a time when they are in need of a great deal of employment, and probably a moral equivalent for war. The completest possible redemption of the universe of our ancestors could provide this equivalent. Returning veterans will have within their power the impulse of authority to demand this equivalent in all of its forms.

In addition to building back our forests and enlivening the streams, there are the employment opportunities of related conservation measures: the terracing and re-seeding of mountain-sides and hill slopes; covering with soil binding vegetation the raw cuts and hills of our endless roads; building uncounted thousands of small gulley check dams, dams to arrest run-off, erosion and silting; and general improvement of the habitat for wildlife: We need adopt a fundamental postulate and apply a minimum standard to our concept of what constitutes an adequate recreational potential for our future citizens. Just how many acres of wild land and just how many rods of privacy along a stream must we have if each American is to preserve his ancestral right to hunt and to angle? Or shall we allow that right to degenerate into the privilege of a powerful and a wealthy few?

Factors inherent in our laws and form of government will make it necessary for these veterans who are to be Nature's champions in America to be endowed with a zeal and singleness of purpose never yet achieved by any group with enough power to be sufficiently effective in a national way. Those who have helped organize a soil conservation district know and appreciate how complex must be such a procedure in a democracy. Individual and property rights, the majesty of the law, and the constitution come into constant play.

Unfortunately Nature herself knows nothing about property rights. She understands only unity and will not compromise in any way, insists instead on total conformity—conformity to her immutable law. The forester thus finds it relatively easy to develop and exercise sound forestry practice in national forests where he can control an ex-

*(Continued on page 24)*

# TIMBER AND GAME--TWIN CROPS

*(Continued from last month)* *(Conclusion)*

A virgin forest, such as this stand of Douglas fir, has been called a biological desert because it does not produce enough feed to support animal life in abundance.

Photograph by K. S. Brown

*Great Moose Herd Protected to Death*

It is when we consider big game, however, that real catastrophe threatens when some influence does not offset an increase in numbers as the carrying capacity of range is approached. Here we could cite the tragic story of the Kaibab deer herd in Arizona as an example or could brief the tortuous history of Jackson Hole elk in Wyoming, but the sorry saga of the Isle Royale moose is more recent and perhaps more dramatic as well.

Isle Royale is a part of Michigan, eighteen miles off the Canadian shore near the western end of Lake Superior. It is forty-five miles long and a third as wide at some points. Until 1920 it was known only to venturesome tourists, a few commercial fishermen and its lighthouse crews. Except for scattered copper explorations many years before, it was an untouched wilderness.

How or just when the moose arrived is anybody's guess. Caribou had been present in limited numbers but had disappeared, either because the island didn't offer what they had to have or by the poaching route as no predators except a few coyotes had ever been known to live there. Obviously, moose crossed from the mainland either on ice or by swimming soon after 1900.

By 1911 sign was common. By 1915 the population was guessed at 300. By 1922 this estimate was upped to 1,000 and the Michigan Conservation Commission asked the legislature to permit limited hunting, following many years of statewide protection for moose.

The request was violently opposed by island fans. The big animals were the principal attraction for the three or four summer resorts by then established in the fiord-like harbors. It was thrilling to see as many as twenty in a wallow at one time and the argument was that if guns were kept out folks might some day see twice that many. The debate became too hot for the legislature to handle and no action was taken.

In 1929 the movement to make the island a National Park was under way and for the first time a top ranking naturalist took a look at the moose. This was Dr. Adolphe Murie. After months on the job he estimated that Isle Royale was home for a certain thousand moose and stated that an actual count, were such possible, might turn up three times that number. Anyhow, the herd was probably the world's greatest concentration of the species.

*Starved for Lack of Browsing*

Murie called attention to the overbrowsed condition, which others had been doing for nearly a decade, but no action resulted. In less than ten years only a remnant of the herd was left. By 1944 estimates ranged from less than thirty to perhaps 300, with the namers of the latter figure saying it was no doubt away too high. Michigan had trapped and transported to the mainland seventy-one. Perhaps a few others had been killed by poachers. Otherwise, the animals had been unmolested. No big predators were present. No special disease was revealed by many autopsies.

That magnificent band of magnificent animals had eaten itself down to seed stock. Ground hemlock, lily roots and other staples were muttoned and today no one is venturing a guess when the vegetation will permit the herd to start rebuilding—if it ever tries. Repeatedly in nature we find when stocks of this or that reach a certain low level they are on their way out and nothing can stop them.

To stories such as these there seems to be a revolutionary moral. It is this: when game populations reach a safe level, then, to have their cake, hunters must eat it. Just as when a stand of forest trees is mature that stand must be harvested or the cords and board feet that might have served man will be lost to him, so when a population of game birds or animals reaches that point beyond which the environment will not support more, the numbers must be reduced. If they are not, and especially with the big mammals, catastrophe may be just around the corner.

*Pennsylvania Deer Escape Disaster*

The Pennsylvania deer herd apparently missed such a catastrophe by an uncomfortably narrow margin in the early 'thirties but because good judgment prevailed, that story has a happy ending.

From colonial times Pennsylvania had been natural range for whitetail deer. After about 1870 the range started to deteriorate. Logging and fire had done their worst, market hunting became a factor and by 1900 deer hunting was not much to brag about in the state.

In 1905 two important steps were taken. One was the setting up of the state's initial game refuge where no deer hunting was permitted; the other was the importation of fifty breeder deer. In 1907 these moves were followed by a buck law so that does had universal protection.

The condition of food and cover was due to get better shortly because all across the land men were realizing that something must be done about forest fire control. Pennsylvania made the beginnings of a real forest fire organization and areas which had been periodically scourged to a cinder began to stay green and recloak themselves with brush and trees.

By 1915 deer hunting had again become something to talk about a little here and there. Just a little. Nearly 1,300 bucks were killed that fall. In another five years the kill had doubled but that wasn't all. The pendulum had made such a rapid upswing in some counties that farmers were complaining about deer damage to crops. The Game Commission was concerned by that problem but not so deeply as over another which raised its head about the same time. This was the matter of overbrowsing. In some localities there were so many deer that they ate food faster than it could grow. And now and again a field man would report deer found dead, maybe from starvation.

Now, the quickest way to relieve troubled farmers and stocks of browse from too much

y Harold Titus

*Reprinted by permission American Forest Products Industries, Washington, D. C.*

essure was to kill a few does along with e bucks in those places where abundance d become a burden, and that is what the ›mmission proposed. But the suggestion unged the body into an argument that oved both tough and protracted with enty of trimmings in the form of restraining ders from courts of law. The revival of e state's deer supply from almost nothing a lot was attributed by many solely to e protection of does and the doe had, in nsequence, become a symbol of everything ·sirable. Also, the public felt that if a big ·rd of deer was nice to have, a still bigger ıe would be nicer, despite occasional crop ımage and food shortages in places.

As the debate went on, starvation during inter became more general. In some areas ·er perished by hundreds. Furthermore, e size of trophies went down. Once bucks ıd averaged 150 pounds but this level fell f, slipped to a low of 115 pounds.

Not until 1928 could an antlerless deer ason of any consequence be made to stick. the next fifteen years over 700,000 does ıd fawns were taken legally, along with a ·avy harvest of bucks in most seasons. inter losses from starvation lessened, the erage weight of specimens began to inease and forest growth, which had been closely browsed that grouse and hares uld no longer exist in sections, started its covery and reached a point where those ecies reappeared.

Before long other states and Federal agenes adopted similar measures not only to control deer herds but for elk and antelope as well. By the early 'forties from the lower Appalachians to beyond the Rockies, planned hunter harvests, based on censused game supplies and an understanding of range limitations, were in order. The permit system was inaugurated in a half dozen states. While local herds were building toward the carrying capacity of their territory, restricted kills were the pattern; where those populations had reached a point beyond which they could not go without endangering habitat, a larger take was encouraged.

This was possible because the new science of game management was getting up on its feet. While for a full century agriculture had progressed due to careful research and planning by technicians, and while forest owners had been increasingly aware of the need of direction in their operations by men trained in the basic sciences involved, game management had been almost exclusively left in the hands of generally well-intentioned but sketchily prepared administrators.

One reason was that until the early 'twenties few biologists had been trained to work in the groove of sustaining wildlife populations. Most scientists who gave their attention to wild birds and animals were chiefly concerned with classification, life histories and whatnot, all important but not going far enough. The old Bureau of Biological Survey and a very few scattered states had staff men with preparation comparable to that of agricultural experiment workers or pro-

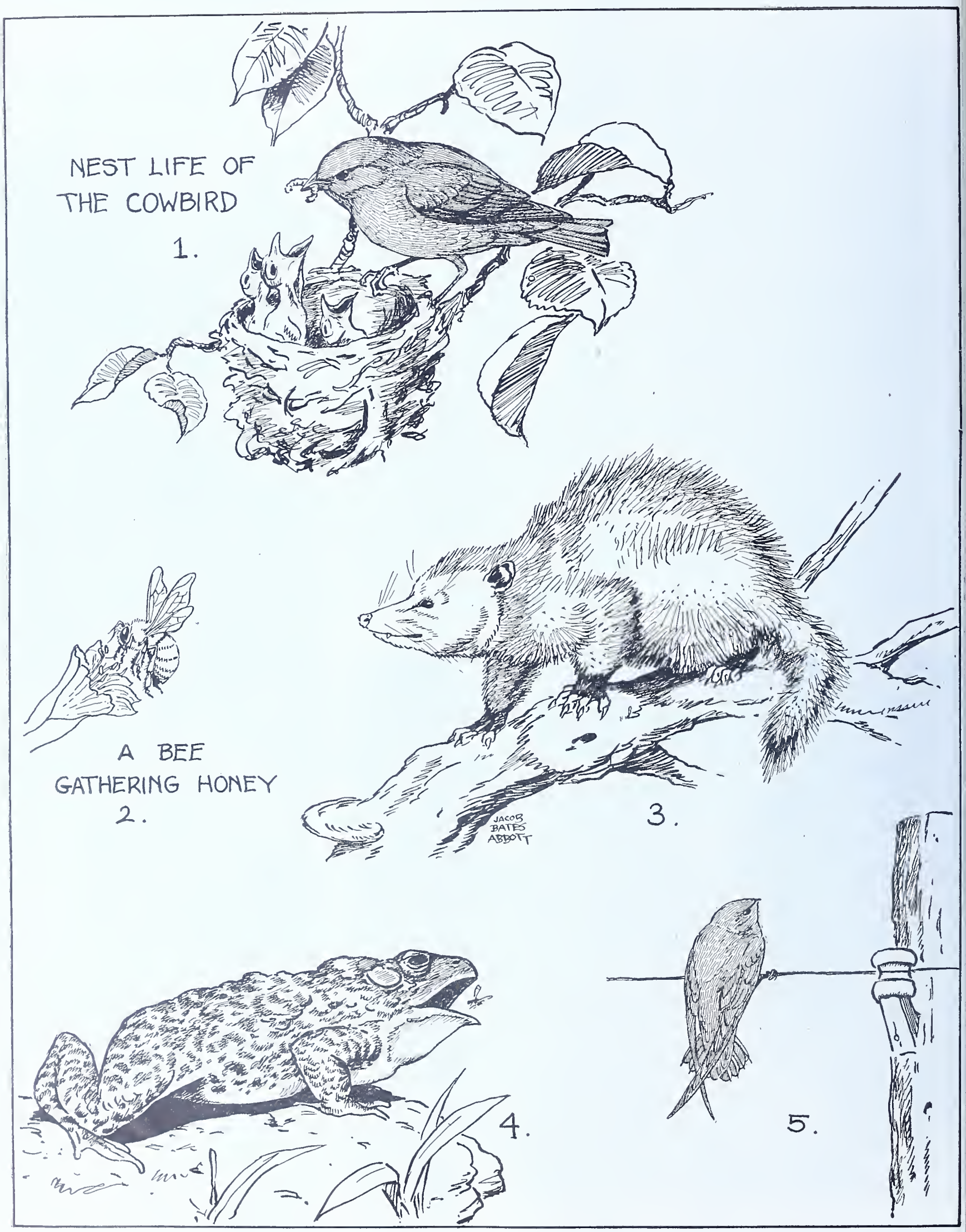
*(Continued on page 26)*

Sometimes forest fire travels faster than deer can run. Most forest fires, destructive alike of game and timber, are caused by human carelessness.

Photographs by U. S. Forest Service

**Six deer were consumed in a fire in the Whitman national forest, Oregon.**

## WELL, WHAT'S WRONG?




For answers see Page 29.

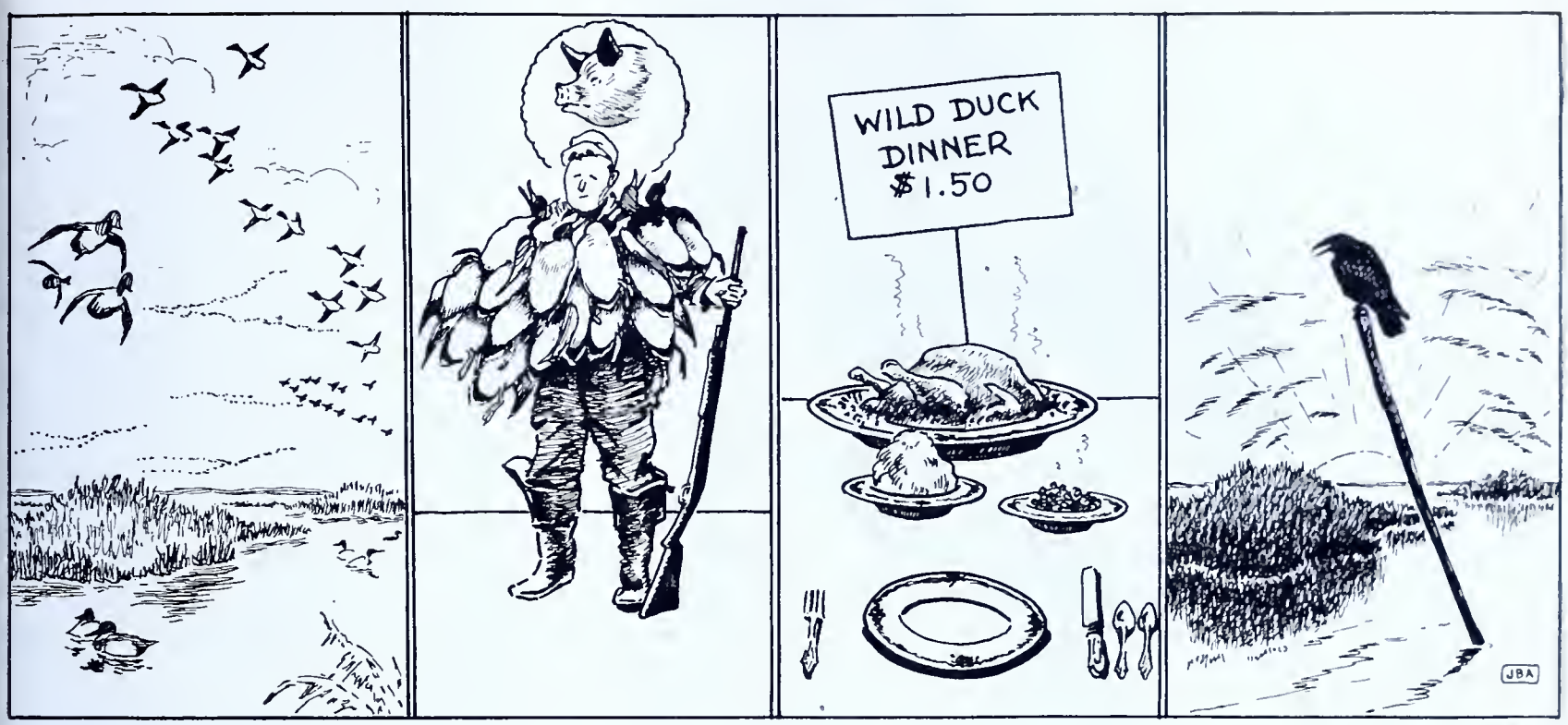



Illustration by Jacob Bates Abbott

# THE RECORDS OF A PROFESSIONAL DUCK HUNTER

**By Dr. Harold B. Wood***

DEFINITE records of the number of birds killed in large numbers by sportsmen or professional gunners are rare because usually none are kept. Lamentable as mass killings and continued shooting are, definite records of birds killed over a period of years show interesting figures. They suggest the relative prevalence of various species during past years, indicate migrational seasons, suggest variations in bird populations, show present rarities, and add unknown species to a local list. Some colloquial names are learned.

About 17,000 waterfowl fell in fifty-three years before the gun of the professional gunner of the olden days whose records are the basis of this account. He kept daily accounts of his bags, and his diary I was permitted to copy. It is reminiscent of the days of fifty years ago when every meat market had its racks festooned with many species of waterfowl. The maker of these records, Hardie Disney, was born in 1873 and lives on the banks of the Susquehanna River opposite Harrisburg. He began to shoot when eleven years old, in 1884, and bagged fourteen birds the first day. Later, he professionally shot game to supply the five hotels of Harrisburg, and received a dollar a duck, with three to five dollars apiece for Canvasbacks. The hotels offered a roast-duck dinner, with all the trimmings, for $1.50. It was a gunner's living in those days. In the fall of 1906, for instance, Disney's accounts show that he received $161.75 for 445 ducks. He shot for a living, although with sad consequences which he could not foretell.

The ducks seemed to be in inexhaustible quantities and there were no restrictions on gunning. "There were thousands of ducks in those days, and every year there was more," as he expresses it. "When a boy, I got up at 4 A.M. and went out and killed ducks before I went to school. I ducked in March and April." All shooting was done from a boat as he and 'buddy' paddled in the shallow, mile-wide Susquehanna. He sometimes used wooden decoys, never live ones, and never baited the water. He shot among the small, grassy islands called 'patches,' where the ducks collected. The desirable ducks were Canvas-backs, Black Ducks, Pintails, Mallards, and Redheads; others he calls 'trashy.'

"We were allowed to shoot all we wanted. The law made it eight months to shoot 'em. We had a right to kill all the ducks we could. The ducks were here in countless thousands";—but now he states: "Since you can't sell any ducks now, the daily bag should be limited to two ducks. The season should not be open before December (here), after the young ducks can fly." The ducks are here from late September until the river freezes over in December.

From 1884 to 1898 he shot 7000 ducks and 22 geese, he declares. From the autumn of 1897 to the autumn of 1938, his diary shows he shot 9185 waterfowl of 27 species, and 72 other birds. Prior to 1897 he kept daily records on slips of paper but left all these behind when he moved to a new home. After 1897 all daily records were written in a blank book, which diary with many photographs of the bags, has recently been acquired by the Archives Division of the Pennsylvania State Library.

In 1892, 1894, and 1895 he had his biggest days, bagging as high as 80 to 93 ducks in one day. He killed as many as 160 in October; 446 were shot during the autumn of 1906—his top limit; 54 Pintails in one day; 198 ducks during the week of April 11, 1904; 95 Blacks and Mallards in four days in the spring of 1905; 30 White-winged Scoters out of a flock of 50. His 2587 ducks shot in the autumn and 2374 in the spring during thirteen years indicate the result of unrestricted shooting.

Spring duck shooting was stopped by the Pennsylvania legislature in 1919. The wisdom of this decision as a measure for protecting the birds is shown by Disney's results. From 1897 to 1923, during open seasons, he shot 22 Canada Geese in the fall and 58 in the spring days of migration. Large ducks, such as Redheads, Blacks, Mallards, Canvas-backs, and Pintails, are most numerous in March, but few are found in April. During thirteen years of gunning, Disney shot 389 Mallards in the fall, 224 in the spring; Black Ducks, 250 in the fall, 668 in the spring; Pintails, 366 in the fall days, 278 in the spring; Redheads, 96 in the fall, 292 in the spring; Scaups, 694 in the fall, 635 in the spring; Golden-eyes, 158 in the fall, 52 in the spring; Buffle-heads, 245 in the fall, 128 in the spring; Scoters, 182 in the fall, 10 in spring shooting. These fall gunning days numbered 354; the spring 240. The totals averaged 6.7 of the above waterfowl per day in the fall, 9.5 in the spring gunning. The days of gunning were mostly during October and November and the following March and April.

Monthly variations are shown by the collated records. During the first quarter of this century, Disney shot during forty-one

*(Continued on page 28)*

* President, Eastern Bird Banding Association.

Tomorrow's Hunter

# DOGS ARE CONSERVATIONISTS

ASK any man who owns a good hunting dog if he does not consider his dog a real conservationist and almost unanimously the answer will be—Yes!! It is the opinion of many conservation minded sportsmen that hunting without a dog should be illegal. This, of course, is probably stretching the point too far, nevertheless each succeeding year does see more and more hunting dogs in the field and marsh, hence it is apparent the value of a dog is becoming generally appreciated.

The real sportsman will seldom shoot at anything he cannot retrieve; however, even he at times overestimates his ability and either makes a kill or wounds a bird he cannot find. Unfortunately, in contrast, there are too many hunters who shoot when there is no chance to do more than cripple a bird. In either case, however, the good hunting dog immediately becomes a conservationist.

From personal experience there have been innumerable times when, without a dog, game killed or crippled would have been located. Many times we have met hunters, still in search of game, who have bemoaned their hard luck stating "they had knocked down several but could not find them."

Time after time we have gone into marsh and field and without ever firing a shot had our dog bring in wounded birds that had been left to suffer and dead ones that were left to rot. Unquestionably the hunters responsible for these unfortunate incidents made all possible human effort to find their game, but man cannot always go where a dog can travel nor is he endowed with the marvelous sense of smell which nature has supplied the hunting dog.

Certainly there can be no real pleasure in knowing that man, beast or bird is left to suffer. Hunting, as practiced today, is recreation for man. Not only does it test his skill as a marksman but it brings him into the great out of doors close to nature which the Great Creator has so bounteously supplied for us who can and will take advantage of it. Surely the hunter wants to preserve for himself and the generations to come this privilege which only the free can today enjoy. To abuse it is criminal.

We know it is impossible for every hunter to own or keep a dog, but there are many who could if they would but make the effort. The companionship of a dog in the field is worth the price alone even if not a single bird is flushed or retrieved. From the purely selfish standpoint the hunter with a dog finds more game—from the humane standpoint and conservation of game, suffering and waste is practically eliminated.

The man with a dog derives much more pleasure from his hunt than the man without. It is not difficult to train a dog with any natural hunting ability. Naturally it takes time to make a dog a perfect performer but this is not absolutely necessary to make the dog a good one for average hunting purposes.

If you hunt and can possibly own and keep a hunting dog do so by all means. The satisfaction obtained will more than repay you for the effort. If you cannot own or keep a hunting dog, hunt with someone who does.—Point and Fetch.

## Care and Feeding of Dogs in Winter

*By* Dr. W. A. Young, Anti-Cruelty Society Chicago

One of the most commonly heard questions in mid-winter is "Why is my dog having digestive disturbances now when I thought most of such trouble came in the dead heat of summertime?"

Naturally, we do see a great many digestive disturbances in hot weather. However mid-winter, particularly when we have had a rather lengthy hard freezing spell with plenty of ice and snow, is apt to produce digestive disturbances in the dog which can be avoided by the owners if care and caution is used during that period.

In our cities in wintertime, repeated snow falls in freezing weather are very apt to cover up garbage and decomposed food in the alleys, vacant lots and out of the way places. It appears that after this food has been frozen in this filthy snow and ice partially thawed out, decomposed a bit, refrozen, etc., toxic harmful material results so that when your dog trots around the corner for a few minutes he is very apt to eat some of this material with resulting inflammation of the stomach and intestines.

It is wise for dog owners to make certain that their four-footed friends do not have a chance to pick up this frozen, soiled decomposing garbage and waste matter. These cases usually do not make their appearances until about the time of a thaw. However, the damage has been piled up during the previous days or weeks and you should guard against the damage during a hard freeze.

Some things you should do are to not

*(Continued on page 27)*

# RECOMMENDATIONS ON RESEARCH

*Based Upon Suggestions Submitted to Commission By Its Employes and Others Interested, and Approved May 2, 1945)*

**ENERAL POLICY**

Early History—Originally the research work of the Game Commission was carried on solely through the observations of the field officers, but in 925 the Commission established the Bureau of Research and Information o collate these observations, to supplement them with controlled tests, to etermine their significance, to present the conservation methods employed y the Commission, and to educate the citizens as to proper wildlife mangement and conservation. Only a limited amount of field work was done y specially trained personnel, but Federal agencies occasionally detailed esearch experts to aid the Commission on the deer problem.

In 1936, the Division of Game Research and Distribution was formed to onduct game research and game distribution functions which had previusly been handled by several bureaus. The research work, dealing hlefly with ecological problems, was carried on to give a sound guide for estocking activities and to aid in the development of the Commission's eneral management program through both field investigations and detailed xperimental work designed to find facts and practical principles applicable o wise game management.

Late in 1937, the Pennsylvania Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit at tate College was established as a cooperating agency, financed jointly by he U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Pennsylvania State College, the merican Wildlife Institute, and the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Its im is toward the solution of certain current wildlife problems and toward he development of a greater knowledge of wildlife ecology.

In order to have suitable base where field and laboratory wildlife reearch could be performed, the Loyalsock Experiment Station was estabished in 1939 through the aid of Pittman-Robertson funds.

On February 1, 1940, there was formed a consolidated operating division, designated the Division of Propagation and Research. This division, still in existence, has the manifold duties of the operation of the four State Game Farms, purchase of all game, distribution of all game for release, trapping and transfer of wild game, and conducting research studies pertinent to all branches of the Commission's activities.

Work Done—To date the work has wisely been limited mainly to practical research of definite value to the Commission. The program has consisted of studies on ecology, life history, food habits, distribution, habitat preference, population, physiology, parasites, and diseases of our game animals, furbearers and predators. In addition, studies on controlled shooting areas, winter feeding, the bounty problem, carrying capacity, trapping, banding, land utilization, hunters' classification, game animal propagation and nutrition have been made. Either final or progress reports on the projects have been submitted and a great many have appeared in various publications.

The methods of carrying on research projects conducted by the Division of Propagation and Research may be broken down into three separate groups: (1) Studies financed entirely with the Commission's regular funds; (2) projects carried out under the Pittman-Robertson Act, whereby the Federal Government pays seventy-five percent of the total costs of approved projects; and (3) studies of a cooperative nature.

As the need for more research has become obvious, the establishment of a research division as a separate unit is recommended. The division would be available to conduct research studies pertinent to all branches of the Commission's activities, and with proper personnel will be able to carry on a greatly expanded program.

| | Current Practices | Immediate Changes Recommended | Future Program Recommendations |
|---|---|---|---|
| **. STUDIES FINANCED ENTIRELY BY COMMISSION** | Major research studies made on the bounty problem, game species, physiology, winter feeding, trapping, banding and tagging, the deer problem, controlled shooting areas, sexing technique for day-old ringneck pheasants, rabbit management and life history, status and management of the wild turkey, effects of climatic conditions upon game species, avian predators diet analysis, habitat preference, and game propagation. In addition, short term studies have dealt with current wildlife problems in crop damage, food habits, ecology, life history, disease, parasites, range carrying capacity, distribution, abundance, and analysis of hunters license data. | Personnel limited at present, so it is impossible to carry on a full scale program. Current short-term problems should be studied, avian food habits study continued. material of some projects that have been completed put into form for publication, and detailed plans for future projects prepared. | Complete such projects that remain uncompleted. Institute a comprehensive research program to obtain more fundamental information on our game, furbearer, and predator species as well as a greatly expanded program to determine feasible land management practices that will improve wildlife conditions.<br>Carry on a thorough study of the economics and wildlife recreation furnished on Cooperative Farm-Game Projects.<br>Establish a completely equipped research experiment station, including modern laboratory, holding and rearing pens located where demonstration areas could be established showing practical farm and forest land management practices beneficial to wildlife.<br>Maintain the present policy of limiting the work mainly to practical research of definite value to the Commission and of attacking the problems in a scientific manner. |
| **3. PROJECTS CARRIED OUT UNDER THE PITTMAN-ROBERTSON ACT** | Studies have been conducted to obtain information relative to the economic status of furbearers; food habits of skunks, and red and gray foxes; economic status and ecology of the foxes; various predator problems; controlled deer breeding experiment; detailed information on the cottontail rabbit regarding breeding phenomena, food and cover requirements and related facts; the effects of controlled burning and silviculture.<br>Most of these projects have not been completed, and a new project designed to furnish valuable information on the bobwhite quail has been instituted. Due to reduced personnel, this study is the only one now active.<br>An experiment station has been established at the Loyalsock Game Farm. | Inaugurate a complete mammal survey of the State provided that suitable personnel can be obtained. | Complete all unfinished projects and expand land management research studies.<br>Establish a project to determine life zones in the State in sufficient detail to be of definite value in game distribution, establishment of seasons, and land management.<br>Institute a study of plant succession as it affects wildlife.<br>The majority of projects carried on under the Pittman-Robertson Act should be long-term studies of practical value to the Commission in administering its wildlife management activities and at the same time furnish information that will be valuable to other states. |
| **C. COOPERATIVE STUDIES** | Research work to date has dealt primarily with relatively short-term current wildlife problems carried on by the Pennsylvania Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, the Pennsylvania State College, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, and the University of Pennsylvania. The program at the Cooperative Unit has not only been engaged in a comprehensive program of game research, but also provides opportunity for graduate study.<br>Among the projects of a cooperative nature were those concerned with game bird propagation, quail management, life history and ecology of the wild turkey, black bear, cottontail rabbit, ringneck pheasant, woodcock, and ruffed grouse, weasel populations, silviculture practices affecting deer foods, census methods, food habits of game birds and predators, nutrition of game animals, game parasites and diseases, bird migration, habitat preference, mast production, forest ecology, and fertilization to produce mast crops. | Since no graduate assistants are obtainable, it is impossible to carry on a normal program; however, such facilities as are available should be utilized for short-term current wildlife problems or long-term projects where it is advisable to have specialized techn cal assistance.<br>The studies dealing with fertilization, census, nutrition, and propagation should be continued, and a new project in land management pertaining to grasses should be instituted. | An expanded program dealing with short-term current wildlife problems and studies requiring specialized technical assistance should be inaugurated.<br>Every effort should be made to utilize fully the services of other organizations or institutions that may be of assistance to our game management problems. |

# ★ ★ ★ CURRENT TOPICS ★ ★ ★

Rollin Heffelfinger

John J. Slautterback

W. C. Shaffer

**Because of an extended leave of absence granted W. C. Shaffer, Chief of the Division of Law Enforcement, due to illness, the Commission recently appointed Rollin Heffelfinger, Field Supervisor of Division G, as acting Chief until such time as Mr. Shaffer is able to return to duty.**

**At the same time it assigned Mr. John J. Slautterback, Wildlife Technician in Division B, as Acting Supervisor in Mr. Heffelfinger's Division. Both men are well qualified to handle their temporary assignments but it is hoped Mr. Shaffer's convalescence will not be too lengthy and he will be back on the job soon.**

## DOVE SEASON OPEN

This year the hunters of Pennsylvania will enjoy their first legal wild dove season in more than 25 years. Under Federal Regulations the Keystone State gunners can bang away at the turtle or mourning dove during the entire small game season from Thursday November 1 to Friday November 30. The daily bag limit is ten.

For many years prior to March 21, 1913, when a special act of the General Assembly transferred doves to the list of protected birds in Pennsylvania, they were listed as game birds with an open season from September 1 to January 1, no bag limit. Under a Federal statute passed the same month all migratory birds, including doves, were covered by a new Federal law.

However, in Pennsylvania doves were continued on the list of protected birds until the Game Code of 1937 was adopted. Since Pennsylvania law gave the birds additional protection, no Federal seasons were permissible during the interim.

After the Game Code of 1937 changed the classification of doves to game birds in this Commonwealth, no season was declared for these birds until this year, when a season was declared by the Federal Government pursuant to recommendations of the Pennsylvania General Assembly, the Federated Sportsmen, and the Pennsylvania Game Commission. It is not necessary to possess a Federal Duck Stamp to hunt mourning doves in Pennsylvania.

## No Small Game Report

Under the Game Law, hunters need no longer file a report of the small game killed. They must, however, file a Big Game Kill Report.

Big game animals (deer and bears) must now be tagged *immediately after the entrails have been removed, but in any event within one hour after killing and before the carcass is transported in any manner from where it was killed.* Reports of big game must be mailed to the Game Commission at Harrisburg *not later than 5 days* after the close of season for the animal killed.

Penalty for failure to tag a big game animal is $10.00; for transporting it without being tagged, $25.00; and for failure to report the kill, $2.00.

### Hunting Accommodations

**The Department of Commerce, Harrisburg, is preparing a little booklet listing the names of guides and hunting accommodations in Pennsylvania. If you are interested in having one write Mr. J. Herbert Walker of that Department immediately.**

## TRAPPING METHODS SHOWN

Field officers of the Commission, interested sportsmen, school children and others are learning how to trap more successfully predatory and fur-bearing animals under the expert instruction of Messrs. Harold Plasterer, Staff Specialist on Predator Control at Harrisburg, and Arthur Logue, District Game Protector of Coudersport, the latter having functioned as a special trapping instructor for several years.

Both these officials have been in the field for the past several weeks giving officers refresher courses on trapping foxes, weasels, minks, skunks, opossums and other predatory and fur-bearing animals; instructing interested sportsmen in the fundamentals of successful trapping; and teaching enthusiastic school boys how best to match wits with the much sought-after muskrat and the equally popular skunk.

Similar instructions last year netted excellent results all around and the Game Commission believes the program will prove even more fruitful this year. Not only does it help control predatory animals such as foxes, weasels, etc., but it increases the harvest of valuable fur-bearers and insures a readier market for them because both adults and youthful trappers are taught how properly to care for and get the most out of the animals' pelts.

# Completes Land Purchase

The Commission recently completed its purchase of the former Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company lands in Dauphin and Lebanon Counties. Almost in sight of the State's Capitol, it is the largest single purchase ever made by the Commission and is considered one of the most important of its land acquisitions.

Although the agreement to purchase this area, totalling 39,921.5 acres, was made in November 1943, nearly two years were required to complete the transaction. Title for a portion of the area, that is 10,983.8 acres in Dauphin County, was conveyed to the Commission in December 1944, which tract was designated State Game Lands No. 210. Just recently the Commission secured title for an additional 28,937.7 acres in Dauphin and Lebanon Counties, which has been designated State Game Lands No. 211. The total area involved was 39,921.5 acres for which the Commission paid $64,465.68.

The two tracts, now Game Lands numbers 210 and 211, are separated by that portion of Clark's Valley acquired a few years ago by the City of Harrisburg for its water supply.

Game Lands No. 210 lies on Broad and Peter's Mountains south of Lykens and Williamstown, and ranges in elevation from 700 to 1700 feet.

Game Lands No. 211 extends from a point on the Third Mountain, 2½ miles from Dauphin, eastward a distance of 24 miles to the Schuylkill County line, and varies in width up to 3 miles. It lies on the north slope of the Second Mountain, and on Stony and Sharp Mountains. The artillery range of the Indiantown Gap Military Reservation has a common boundary with this tract along the summit of the Second Mountain, a distance of about 7 miles.

Both tracts of land provide good hunting, especially for deer. Grouse, turkeys, rabbits, raccoons, and gray squirrels are also present. Many sportsmen fish for trout in Stony Creek, within Game Lands No. 211.

## THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW

The black seeds of the male peony were once recommended for sufferers from nightmares.

During the summer a square meter of leaf surface evaporates about fifty grams of water per hour.

Crooked streams retard the rate of flow of water from 30% to 60%; vegetation growing in the stream bed also retard flow greatly.

When several electric eels are together, one or two will discharge their electricity to paralyze food for all, thus allowing the others to keep their electricity in reserve.

Cattail fluff, from the ordinary swamp cattail, is now used in large quantities as a stuffing in upholstery and for other purposes; it is buoyant and well suited for life-saving equipment.

Fossil redwood cones have been discovered in the badlands of Dakota.

## STANDARD SHOOTING HOURS

Shooting hours for hunting, which were based on Eastern War Time when game seasons and bag limits were established this year, were changed to Eastern Standard Time by a resolution of the Game Commission at its meeting September 22.

This means all small game birds or animals, or migratory birds now in season, and those upon which the season will open later, will be subject to standard shooting hours as follows:

Migratory birds may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset (Federal hours) from the time the season opens until October 31. On November 1 they may be hunted from 9 A. M. to 5 P. M., and from November 2 to the end of their respective seasons from 7 A. M. to 5 P. M. If sunset occurs earlier the Federal sunset regulation automatically applies.

The hours for shooting upland game will be 9 A. M. to 5 P. M. on November 1, and thereafter the standard hours for hunting will be 7 A. M. to 5 P. M. daily for both small and big game.

From July 1 to September 30 inclusive the hours will be 6 A. M. to 7:30 P. M.

Traps for fur-bearers and raccoons may not be placed before 9 A. M. on November 1 or before 7 A. M. on any later opening date for trapping.

The hours for conveying certain guns and ammunition likewise are governed by Standard time, as are all other regulations which heretofore were based on Eastern War Time.

The drone-fly is so named because it resembles the drone honey bee in appearance.

The fastest upland game bird is also the largest—the wild turkey.

## PROPOSED BILL

A bill introduced by Representative A. Willis Robertson of Virginia would permit managed hunting on Federal refuges, reservations and other holdings. Known as H.R. 3460, the bill provides that shooting may be permitted on such areas "whenever public shooting shall be found not inconsistent with the primary objectives of the conservation activities for which the area was procured."

Further conditions provide that any area acquired or established as refuge, management area, reservation or breeding ground must be fully developed for its intended purpose before it may be opened for public shooting, and that shooting may not be permitted if local or national populations of the species in question are in decline, or if there are other indications that it would be to the best interests of our wildlife resources to keep the area closed.

# Book Review

MY DOG LEMON by Ray P. Holland, A. S. Barnes and Company, Publishers, 67 West 44th Street, New York 18, N. Y. $1.75.

Ray Holland, well known sportsman and former Editor-in-Chief of *Field and Stream*, has, through the pages of the *Saturday Evening Post*, made Lemon one of the best known dogs in contemporary fiction. Here is the complete story of Lemon beginning with his purchase by the Connecticut doctor from Jeff Minter, the canny breeder.

Lemon looked like the answer to every hunter's prayer. He only lacked one thing. He couldn't scent. This the doctor did not know when he purchased the dog. How Lemon, in spite of his handicap, was trained to be a winner is an absorbing story written in amusing and interesting style.

Photo by W. L. R. Drake.

**GAME FARM SUPERINTENDENTS CONFER OCTOBER 5, 1945, IN HARRISBURG**

**Sitting, left to right: L. P. Keiser, Superintendent Wild Turkey Farm; Ralph E. Britt, Field Administrative Assistant, Division of Propagation and Distribution; Chas. F. Pfeiffer, Assistant Superintendent Loyalsock Farm; and Chas. F. Stambaugh, Office Administrative Assistant, Division of Propagation and Distribution.**

**Standing, left to right: Earl S. Greenwood, Acting Chief, Division of Propagation and Distributor; Commissioner John C. Herman; V. T. Warfel, Superintendent, Fisher Farm; and Isaac Baumgardner, Superintendent, Jordan Farm.**

## MEMORIAL

Nathan Buller

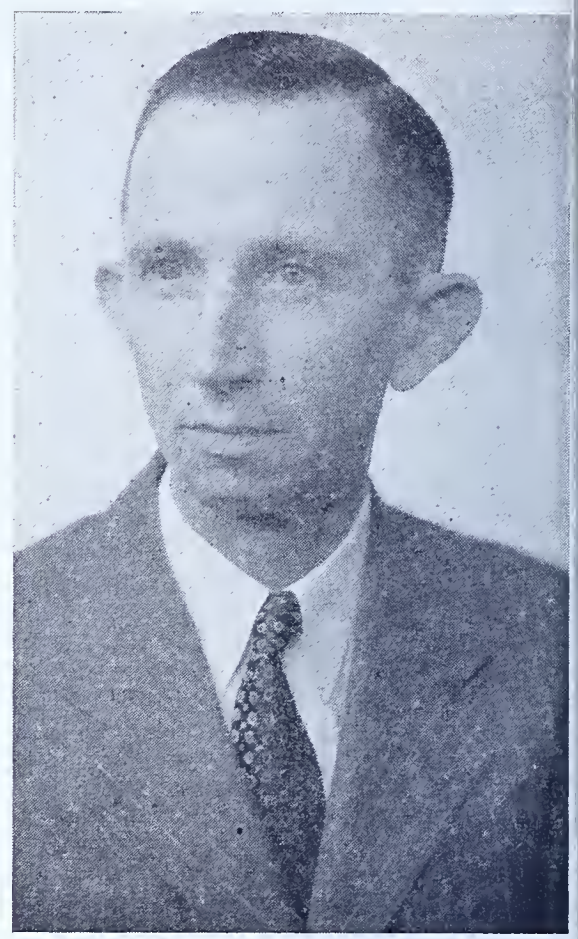
Nathan Buller, 84, father of Pennsylvania's modern fish hatchery system, died at his home in Harrisburg September 9, 1945.

Mr. Buller began his long fish cultural career at the age of 17 when he started to work at Pennsylvania's first Fish Farm at Donegal, Lancaster County, in 1877. He remained with the Pennsylvania Fish Commission until 1931 and served as Commissioner of Fisheries under Governors Tener, Sproul, Brumbaugh, Pinchot and Fisher. During his 56 years with the agency it grew from the original hatchery established on the Gen. Simon Cameron farm in Lancaster County to the statewide system now operating at Corry, Erie, Pleasant Mount, Tionesta, Union City, Torresdale, Bellefonte and Reynoldsville. Two others, Huntsdale and Pymatuning were added after his resignation.

After leaving the State employ, he served as consultant for numerous clubs and private hatcheries.

Mr. Buller was active almost to the day of his death. His passing takes one of the few remaining pioneers in fish culture, a loyal and faithful public servant, a gentleman and a true sportsman.

## New Maryland Game Head



Ernest A. Vaughn

# Hunters and Shooters Lead in Expenditures

*Account for Approximately 39% of America's Recreation Dollar*

A digest of the 1939 Census of Manufacturers, conducted by the Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce, reveals that sporting arms and ammunition and equipment for hunting and shooting accounted for approximately 39% of the expenditures made by the American public for sporting equipment, according to the Remington Arms Company, Inc.

The total expenditure for all sports equipment was $121,855,304 at manufacturers' selling prices. This figure is, of course, much less than what the consumers actually paid. Of this amount sporting ammunition topped the field with a total of $29,091,475. Next in line was sporting firearms, total $17,268,915. Added to this was $1,272,170 spent for hunting and shooting equipment, for a grand total of $47,632,560 accredited to these two sports, or approximately 39% of the entire sporting equipment dollar.

Nearest comes golf goods with a total of $15,644,612. Remington officials consider the sum of $3,000,000,000 a conservative estimate for the annual expenditure of recreation lovers in the post-war world. This estimate, of course, includes such items as travel, food, etc., not included in the government census and is based on retail prices.

The sporting goods expenditures (manufacturers' selling prices) contained in the last biennial census (1939) follow:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Golf goods | $15,644,612 | |
| Fishing tackle | 12,574,758 | |
| Baseball goods | 6,286,055 | |
| Tennis goods | 4,750,936 | |
| Rackets (other than tennis) | 282,021 | |
| Football, basketball and boxing goods and other inflated balls | 5,357,700 | |
| Billiard and pool tables and accessories | 2,967,942 | |
| Skates | 5,411,479 | |
| Gym Equipment | 602,613 | |
| Skis and snowshoes | 1,078,685 | |
| Toboggans and sleds | 148,643 | |
| Croquet sets | 369,161 | |
| Playground equipment | 1,733,818 | |
| Bowling alleys, accessories, hockey sticks and parts of skates | 10,224,479 | |
| Fish line (mostly commercial) | 3,925,899 | |
| Toy guns and air rifles | 1,888,769 | |
| Sleds | 975,174 | |
| Total | | $ 74,222,744 |
| Sporting Ammunition | 29,091,475 | |
| Sporting Firearms | 17,268,915 | |
| Equipment for Hunting and Shooting | 1,272,170 | |
| Total | | 47,632,560 |
| Grand Total | | $121,855,304 |

## NOTES FROM OTHER STATES

The Game and Inland Fish Commission of Maryland recently appointed Ernest A. Vaughn of Salisbury to the position of State Game Warden of Maryland, effective September 15, 1945, to succeed E. Lee LeCompte who resigned as of that date.

Mr. Vaughn has had 11 years' experience in Maryland with outdoor recreation projects. In 1934 he was one of the Wildlife Technicians selected for the game management and wildlife restoration projects of the Resettlement Administration office. He served as a non-salaried deputy game warden and Regional Deputy Game Warden under the Maryland Commission and in 1939 was appointed as a Wildlife Field Superintendent (Technician) and was the Technician who set up and developed the first Pittman-Robertson area purchased by the Commission.

The Federal Investigators of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U. S. Soil Conservation Service have highly commended him for his work and efficiency in setting up and carrying on these projects, and he will certainly be an able successor to Mr. LeCompte.

## Stolen!

We have received a report that a new 16 gauge Remington Model shotgun, No. 31, Serial Number 541267, 28 inch modified barrel, was stolen from the Guard Headquarters of Koppers Company, Inc., Monaca.

Any information leading to the recovery of this gun will be greatly appreciated.

## THE LONG AND SHORT OF ANIMAL LIFE

The age limits of animals, birds, fishes nd insects have always provided an intersting subject for students of natural history. The may-fly, according to a Remington Arms Company researcher, is said to have the hortest span of life. This common *Ephemra vulgata* emerges from the water in thouands for a wedding dance of an afternoon, ay their eggs, and die.

"But these performances," he said, "occur nly in the final phase of a comparatively ong life-history. The may-fly hatches as small wingless larva with six legs and hree tails and dwells in the stream from ne to three years before emerging in his inal adult form.

"Animals which are really long-lived are omparatively few," he continued. "Here re some of the figures estimated by cometent authorities:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Giant Tortoise | 200 | years |
| Carp | 150 | " |
| Vulture | 118 | " |
| Eagle | 104 | " |
| Whale | 100 | " |
| Salmon | 100 | " |
| Crow | 100 | " |
| Parrot | 100 | " |
| Raven | 100 | " |
| Man | 100 | " |
| Shark | 100 | " |
| Eider Duck | 100 | " |

"In the strong, active carnivores, 25 years seldom exceeded. The tiger may live to e 25 and possibly 35; bear up to 25 and 40; ea lion 17; cat 9 to 10 and sometimes much lder; dog 10 to 15 and, rarely, up to 35; yena, jackal and fox 14; badger 12. The orse may live 25 to 40 years; cow 25; deer bout 20; antelope, goat and sheep about 15. ome animals live much longer in captivity han in native environment. This is due to he elimination of many of their natural hazrds. Others, which cannot successfully adapt hemselves to the conditions imposed by aptivity, live comparatively short lives.

## BOOK REVIEW

BASS FISHING by Jim Gasque, Alfred A. Knopf, Publisher, New York, N. Y. $5.00.

This ideal book on fishing for fresh water ass both large mouth and small mouth, overs the subject completely, describing the abits of the fish, where they may be found, eculiarities and variations in habit, what ods, reels and lures to use, problems of the easons, differences between lake, stream nd river fishing, timing, etc. It answers irtually every question either the amateur r skilled angler could ask.

The volume is superbly illustrated with a ll-color painting as a frontispiece, a full-olor plate of fly-rod and casting-rod lures, nd a full-color plate of the large and small-nouth basses; and with 40 photographs reroduced in black-and-white half-tone which icture bass waters of all varieties, methods f casting, boating, and playing the fish. he photographs were expressly made for his book and show, chapter by chapter, the dentical water discussed.

The result of thirty years fishing experince, this book will be a valuable addition o any angler's library.

## OCTOBER'S LURE

By *Hilda Clark Fairchild*

Walk to the edge of the wood today.
Let Nature cast your cares away.
Her fleecy clouds will smile at you
From October's sky, so brightly blue,
The warm sunlight will playful be
'Twill cheer your heart—it did for me—
The winds will rustle through the trees,
Leaves flutter and dance with every breeze;
A noisy jay may scream at you,
A squirrel may drop a nut or two,
A hawk may soar high overhead
To seek for moles that lie abed;
Then, odors from grapes upon the vine,
Spicewood, sassafras and woodbine—
And flaming colors, where'er you look,
Will lure you on like a story book.

---

A total of 920 large, healthy ringneck pheasants, raised from day-old chicks by the Kane Fish and Game Club at the Henry Detrick farm have been liberated in every direction from Kane and within a radius of 5 miles.

The total cost of the venture was approximately $300. The club is trying to secure contributions from its members to cover the deficit and to help with plans for another extensive stocking program next year.

---

An underwater spotlight for deep-sea diving operations packs 1,000 watts inside a bulb the size of an ordinary 40-watt type; if lighted where there is no cooling water pressure, it would fail in a few minutes.

Paul S. Narby

**It is with regret that we announce the resignation of Game Protector Paul S. Narby who left the service August 31. Narby joined the field staff as a Land Management Protector on October 22, 1934 and served in that capacity during the whole period of his employment. He was a conservationist and loyal worker and his friends and associates will miss him. Here's wishing him success in future years.**

## 1944-45 DUCK STAMP SALES

| *State* | *Total* |
|---|---|
| Alabama | 7,226 |
| Alaska | 4,025 |
| Arizona | 5,535 |
| Arkansas | 26,451 |
| California | 113,251 |
| Colorado | 24,258 |
| Connecticut | 9,196 |
| Delaware | 3,916 |
| District of Columbia | 1,605 |
| Florida | 18,096 |
| Georgia | 3,505 |
| Hawaii | 96 |
| Idaho | 25,212 |
| Illinois | 69,453 |
| Indiana | 23,577 |
| Iowa | 44,078 |
| Kansas | 38,470 |
| Kentucky | 5,193 |
| Louisiana | 45,169 |
| Maine | 11,770 |
| Maryland | 13,178 |
| Massachusetts | 20,571 |
| Michigan | 90,182 |
| Minnesota | 114,415 |
| Mississippi | 10,313 |
| Missouri | 41,354 |
| Montana | 25,418 |
| Nebraska | 33,703 |
| Nevada | 5,880 |
| New Hampshire | 4,084 |
| New Jersey | 23,559 |
| New Mexico | 6,391 |
| New York | 45,665 |
| North Carolina | 12,002 |
| North Dakota | 30,323 |
| Ohio | 21,981 |
| Oklahoma | 31,239 |
| Oregon | 40,962 |
| Pennsylvania | 32,883 |
| Rhode Island | 3,466 |
| South Carolina | 6,237 |
| South Dakota | 46,202 |
| Tennessee | 13,365 |
| Texas | 98,194 |
| Utah | 20,868 |
| Vermont | 3,965 |
| Virginia | 13,169 |
| Washington | 77,035 |
| West Virginia | 1,637 |
| Wisconsin | 74,208 |
| Wyoming | 8,245 |
| Puerto Rico | 223 |
| Philatelic Agency | 7,564 |
| | 1,458,628 |

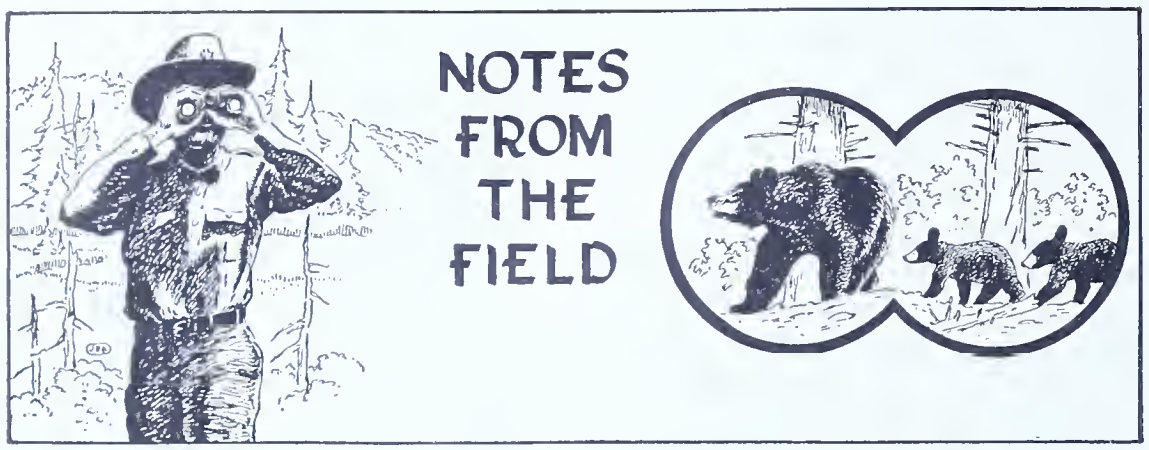
---

*Wisconsin*

Wisconsin's deer study, now five years old, will be continued, the Conservation Department of that State has announced. Many of the Department's divisions will help in an expanded deer survey, which will include such subjects as forestry, administration, fire lanes, seasons, artificial feeding, crop damage, refuges, closed areas, controlled hunting and recreation.

*Ohio*

The July report of farm ponds in Ohio lists 80 completed areas with a total of 140 ponds signed up for construction. The program, a cooperative one between farmers and the Division of Conservation, is a Pittman-Robertson project, deriving 75% of its support from Federal taxes on the sale of sporting arms and ammunition.




"We still have a serious vermin problem in this section. Heavy inroads have been made by foxes, raccoons, stray dogs, Cooper's hawks, and great horned owls on the very limited supply of ringnecks and rabbits which was left over from last season's heavy winter.

"Foxes and raccoons have turned to the easy way of making a living and are robbing the farmers of their chickens. I feel that every sportsman should get out and do his bit toward killing some of these obnoxious critters this fall and refrain from trying to bag his limit of game. It will pay big dividends the following seasons if he does."—Game Protector R. P. Schmid, Slippery Rock, August 1945.

---

"I find game food conditions spotty. Some acorns, especially red oak and scrub oak, have a good supply of fruit. Grapes are only fair and still green. There are no apples.

"I received rather unwelcome visitors at refuge headquarters on August 18 when a swarm of honey bees took up temporary quarters in the attic. Things weren't to their liking so they left, leaving some of their number scattered through the upper story of the house."—Game Protector Jack DeLong, Portage, August 1945.

---

"Just out of Cambridge Springs I saw three nice bucks standing in an open field. The largest had ten points on his antlers and the smallest had six. The horns were still in the velvet.

"I have seen quite a few young pheasants and grouse and the young rabbits are quite numerous."—Game Protector Elmer D. Simpson, Cambridge Springs, August 1945.

---

"To date a few coveys of grouse have been observed. The number of young birds have been very small per covey. The average seemed to be about four young birds. Some run as low as one. Six or eight was the largest number of young observed. It is hoped they will show up in larger numbers by the time the hunting season arrives.

"One covey of four young birds and the old bird was observed quite regularly along a certain stretch of road on Game Lands No. 35, Susquehanna County, where they always seemed to be dusting and digging in the dirt. It is my opinion that bare ground and good dusting places are just as necessary for the grouse as good food and cover."—Game Protector Howard F. Hoffman, Susquehanna, August 1945.

"A farmer from Sugar Grove reported the killing of nine wild mallards by some predators, so I took a couple traps and went to investigate. The ducks had been killed and left on the ground without being eaten. The next morning we had a large red fox in the trap and the killings have stopped.

"While patrolling Game Lands No. 29 I saw a broad-winged hawk killing a cottontail rabbit. It was unable to fly with the rabbit but willing to stay and fight for it. Therefore, its game killing was stopped.

"There are plenty of acorns and some beechnuts in this area; also plenty of hawthorne berries. This is encouraging, because during the early summer feed was scarce."—Game Protector George H. Burdick, Tidioute, August 1945.

---

"While helping Mr. Stainbrook tear down an old barn and build a shed on State Game Lands No. 117, Washington County, I set some fox traps. I found that foxes were very plentiful and in looking at the traps five times I did not see a single piece of game, although there were some signs of rabbits. In making the sets I tried using moss under the pan and leaves to cover the pan. I had several foxes step on the pedal hard enough to have set off the trap, but the dirt had sifted under the pan enough that the trap did not spring. I do not remember a single case in which this happened last winter, which is evidence enough for me that the correct way to set the dirt hole set is with a wax paper plenty big enough to insure dirt from sifting under the pan.

"One man, for whom I set five traps last winter, has already trapped 45 foxes in three week's time and says he is going to take more than I do. He expects to devote all his time to trapping for a while. The bounty on the red fox has stimulated this ambition, and I believe will account for a marked decrease in the fox population."—Game Protector John F. Blair, Waynesburg, August 1945.

---

"During August a member of the simian tribe, probably an ape, escaped from a traveling show. It was seen and heard in the vicinities of Crabtree, Lloydsville and Marietta, Westmoreland County. The animal reportedly took chickens at the last named locality. Other than that, the principal complaint against it was damage to nerves and loss of the usual feeling of security over parts of the county."—Game Protector R. D. Reed, Latrobe, August 1945.

## THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW

What is commonly known as the "tail" of a peacock is not the tail at all. It is the "fan" which is formed of the tail coverts and is used for display purposes. The real tail supports the great fan when it is expanded.

* * *

The world's most dangerous wild animal is the common house fly. It spreads disease and is responsible for more deaths than a war.

* * *

The bee can raise each of his six feet 1,200 times in a minute.

* * *

Very young red and gray foxes sometimes closely resemble the young of wolves and coyotes. One sure way to distinguish between the species is to "look 'em in the eye." The pupils of foxes are slanted like those of a cat's eyes, but the pupils of wolves and coyotes' are round, like those of a dog.

* * *

The young of the antelope is not a calf It is a kid.

* * *

One cord of pulpwood will make sufficien smokeless powder for 90,000 rounds of .3 caliber military cartridges.

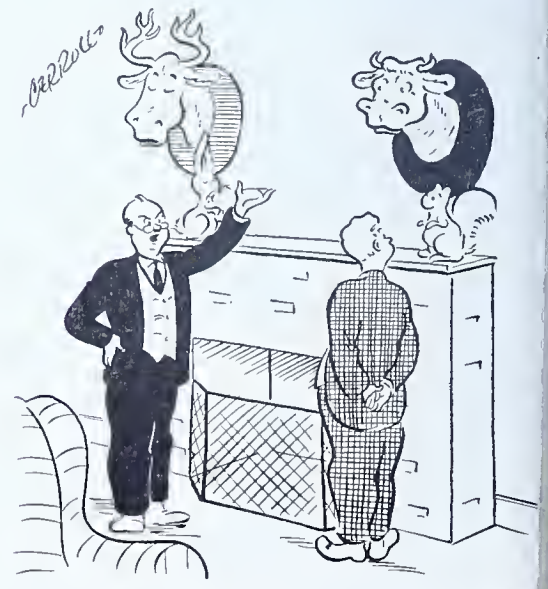
---

"The deer have been showing up wel during the last month and there will b plenty of good shooting this season if w can get the ammunition.

"We will have a very limited amount c feed for squirrels this fall and winter. Tur keys will also have to be fed this winter we expect to have them for many yea hence."—Game Protector D. H. Franklin Upper Strasburg, August 1945.

---

"The duck hunting for the coming seaso looks very favorable on Game Lands N 183. I have noticed a great increase in duck as to last season's hatches. The beaver dam are increasing the duck population, as the afford plenty of food and excellent cover."- Game Protector Wallace Woodring, Hawle August 1945.



**"Did I ever tell you about the FIR time I went hunting?"**

## FIELD NOTES

The Reading Railroad, between Bethlehem, Pennsylvania and Philadelphia, goes through some beautiful farm country where ring-neck pheasants and rabbits provide some mighty good shooting. At nine in the morning on November 1, along with several of my pals, I was out with my gun. Our dog was young and pretty wild and we were having a hard time making him stand. He was flushing birds outside of gun shot so I decided to wander off from the bunch and try my luck without the dog. I found myself down towards the railroad tracks and all of a sudden, I heard a shout and thought they were calling my attention to an approaching freight train. However, on turning, I saw a pheasant the dog had flushed coming my way. I had some number five shot in my left, full choke barrel. That pheasant was going some and as it passed me, I gave it plenty of lead and let go. It only took one shot and down it came, head over heels. Bump! Bump! It landed right on the roof of a car. It started to roll back, turning over and over, so I ran to pick it up when it came off the roof, but to my surprise it caught under a ventilator and the last I saw of that bird was its wings flopping and its beautiful tail flying in the wind. It was off for a ride to Philadelphia.

It was about noon so we decided to walk in to town for lunch and on passing the station, I decided to tell the agent about my experience. He said, "I'll call up Philadelphia and tell them." I said, "Here is my card. I'd just like to know if that bird did carry to the end of the line." To my surprise, about a week later, I received a letter from Philadelphia telling me the yardman got the bird, skinned it for mounting and he and his family had a feast that night.

I already had a bird in my bag so we had a discussion at noon as to whether I had my limit, but we decided, although I had hit the bird all right, I could say "The last I saw of it it was still going." Therefore, I was entitled to some more shooting. However, in the afternoon, I avoided the railroad tracks, especially when trains were going by.

Believe this story, and I'll tell you another one!—"Billy" Cooneline, Bethlehem, Pa.

---

"I've been taking the GAME NEWS since I began to go hunting and I couldn't do without it. It's real.

"I have gone bear hunting for the past 16 years and this year is the first time I've had shooting. One year there were bears shot on both sides of me, and pretty close too, but I never saw a hair.

"One hunter, hearing a noise close to him and thinking it was a deer, took a good stoop to look and a bear came right up to him. The nimrod fired one shot and fell over backwards. The bear was shot further down over the hill by two hunting parties who divided the carcass between them.

"The black bear on the other side of me was shot in his tracks. The funny part was the hunter had his back turned and if it hadn't been for a stick breaking, he never would have known the bear was there. Mr. Bruin was doing a pussyfoot exit when discovered.

"This year, while tramping down the snow-laden North Mountain looking for a place to sit, I spied what I thought was a red doe about 400 yards away coming toward me on the old log road. Suddenly it turned broadside and started sliding down over the side of the bank to the lower flats. I suddenly came to my senses and realized the animal was not a doe but a cinnamon bear!

"I presented arms in double quick time, found a space through the trees and fired three times. By that time the bear was out of sight, headed up the other point. I felt sick.

"I heard two shots as I ran down to pick up her trail. About two-thirds of the way up the mountain I saw a pool of blood and marks in the snow where something had been dragged. I followed and soon caught up with the lucky hunter who finally got the cinnamon bear. The animal was a 150 pound female. We gutted her and I took the heart and liver and a bunch of red bear hair to show the boys that it was no bear story.

"Nearly two weeks later while buck hunting I revisited the spot. The snow had covered the entrails and I found them untouched and well preserved. Upon examination I found that the stomach contained blackberry seeds and stain, grape hulls and seeds, plenty of apple seeds and some beechnuts, but no corn or acorns."—Paul Hess, Upper Darby.

---

## CLUB NOTES

The Perkiomen Valley Sportsmen's Association are boosting their numbers by conducting a membership campaign. The five competing teams have so far brought in sixty-seven new members and sixty-four renewals.

The West Chester Fish and Game Association reported a membership of 850 as of March 1. They want to increase that number to 1,000 before hunting season.

This club recently released 202 pheasants; 112 of them had been raised by the club and held over for spring release. Twenty quail were also stocked in the county.

Fish of various kinds have been stocked in the county streams.

A very noteworthy accomplishment is that of G. Gibbs Kane, Jr., an active member of the club. He is the "man behind the gun" on the project to provide fishing for the veterans at Valley Forge Hospital. His tireless efforts finally culminated in success on April 20 when Governor Martin officially opened the lake on the property of Dr. Elmer J. Gotwols, Kimberton, for the use of the wounded veterans.

The Fish Commission stocked the lake with trout and promised that at the end of the trout season, it would restock the lake with warm-water species so that the veterans may fish throughout the year.

---

The Southeastern Division of the State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs is proud to report that it had 27,069 paid members in its nine-county unit last year. The record further reveals that last year, in spite of busy war-time schedules and restricted travel, the division increased its paid membership by 5,690 sportsmen. The unit expects to have at least 30,000 members by the end of the current year.

Montgomery County leads the division in farm-game projects with a total of 19,638 acres of farm land incorporated into farm-game projects. Bucks County is second with a total of 10,951 acres.

*(Continued on page 29)*

Photo by W. L. R. Drake.

**Wildlife Research experts met recently in the Commission's office at Harrisburg and discussed future programs with Executive Director Seth Gordon. Left to right: Dr. Gustav Swanson, In Charge of Cooperative Wildlife Research Units for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago; Lt. (Dr.) Logan J. Bennett, In Charge of the Cooperative Unit jointly sponsored by The Pennsylvania State College, the Commission and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and Dr. P. F. English, Assistant unit head. Lt. Bennett recently returned from the Pacific after almost three years of service with the Navy.**

## AN ACCOUNTING TO THE SPORTSMEN

*(Continued from page 5)*

expended a total of $27,118,554.20, of which $15,545,283.25 or 57.3% of its total outlay went into the production and stocking of game, public hunting grounds and refuges, and bounties; $8,341,345.09, or approximately 30.8% for the protection of game, mostly law enforcement; and $3,231,925.86 or 11.9% for all other purposes, including Executive Office Administration, Accounting, Public Information, Research, Hunters' Licenses and Tags, General Printing, Game-Kill Tabulation, etc.

### Future Breakdown of Expenditures

In the interest of operating efficiency, thereby eliminating overlapping of authority, the Commission established 150 districts for field administrative purposes, making the officer in charge of each district responsible for all the field work within the district. This automatically eliminated the two classes of Game Protectors, one in charge of law enforcement and the other responsible for land management work. This change afforded an unusual opportunity for securing a more accurate subdivision of all field expenses. Field Officers are now required to file a monthly distribution sheet covering expenses and salaries. Therefore, in the future the field expenses can be broken down to show the expenses incurred in the performance of specific functions. To illustrate, the $324,010.52 shown in Table No. 4 as the amount charged to law enforcement work can be subdivided to show the amount expended for: (1) game law enforcement only, (2) special game permits, (3) game damage complaints, (4) predator control, (5) artificial game feeding and (6) cooperative activities with other agencies (State and Federal).

### Status of Game Fund

The condition of the "Game Fund" as of May 31, 1945 was very good. In keeping with the times, it included the usual operating reserve and a substantial "Wartime Reserve". The May 31, 1945 balance is subdivided into its several component parts, as follows:

1. Balance as of May 31, 1945, $2,206,479.14 (exclusive of War Bond Investment of $200,000)—The balance available, per statement which accompanies this article, was the largest amount in the Game Fund at the end of any fiscal year in the Commission's history. Previously in this article a complete explanation was given for decreased expenditures. Good business management demands that unusually large reserves be created and maintained to finance postwar programs over and above the amount of money that will then be available from current revenues.

2. Commitments as of May 31, 1945, $179,228.75—In the orderly course of business it becomes necessary to make commitments against the current operating expenses for a given year which cannot be paid during said period. Money for the payment thereof must be deducted from the balance at the end of the fiscal year.

3. Unallocated and unexpended balances,

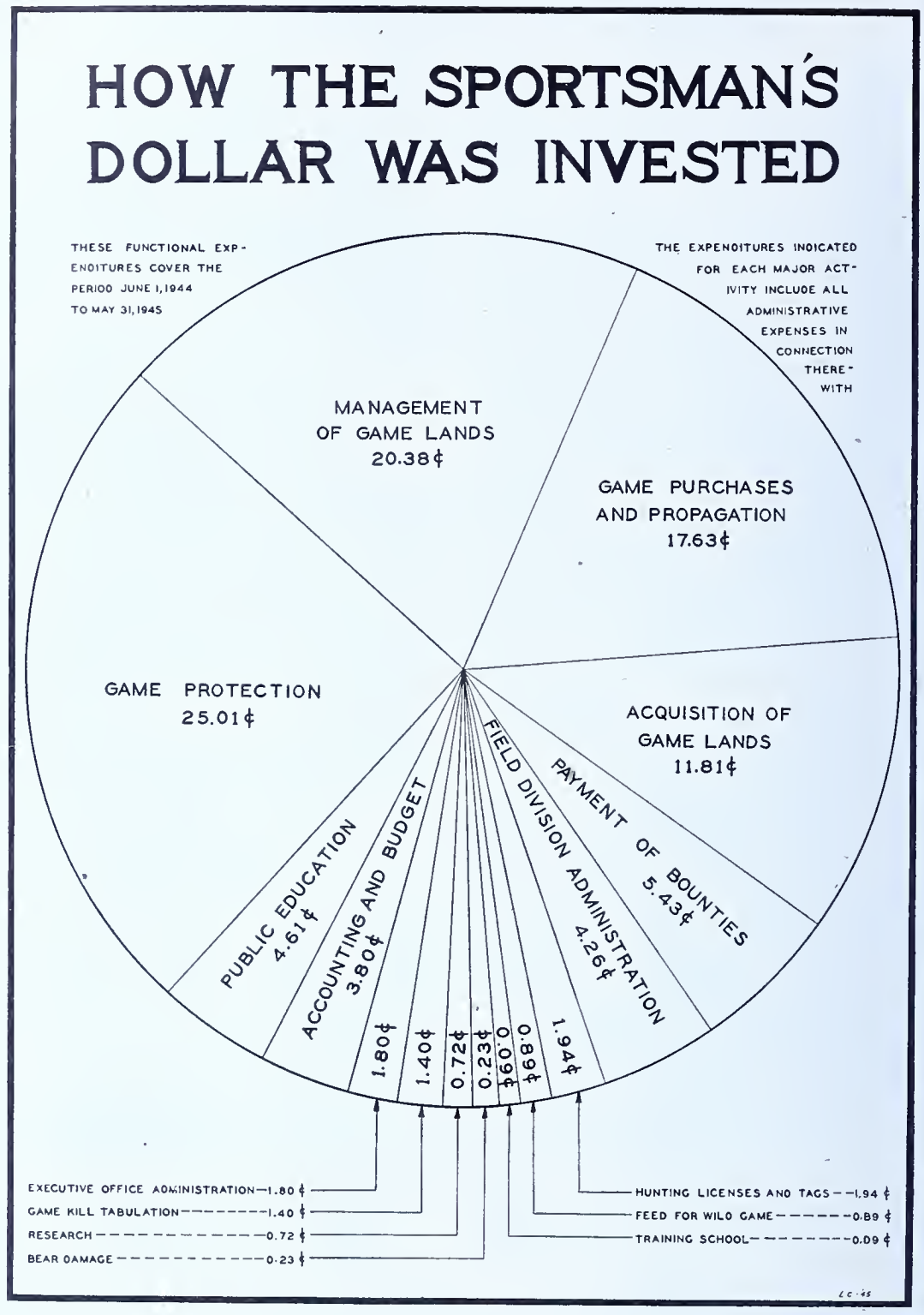



**TABLE NO. 1**

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES**

**December 1, 1919 to May 31, 1945**
**(25½ Years)**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Income | $29,525,033.34 | |
| Total Expenditures | 27,118,554.20 | |
| MAJOR FUNCTIONS: | | |
| Protection Expenditures | 8,341,345.09 | ( 30.8%) |
| | 68,571.62* | |
| Land Purchase Expenditures | 3,744,072.08 | ( 14.0%) |
| Land Management Expenditures | 4,573,615.40 | ( 17.0%) |
| Game Farm Expenditures | 2,125,447.83 | ( 7.8%) |
| Game Purchase and Wild Game Transfer Expenditures | 2,326,258.73 | ( 8.6%) |
| Bounty Expenditures | 2,707,317.59 | ( 9.9%) |
| | 68,571.62* | |
| Total for Six Major Functions | $23,818,056.72 | ( 88.1%) |
| All Other Expenditures | 3,231,925.86 | ( 11.9%) |
| Grand Total for all Purposes | $27,118,554.20 | (100 %) |

* Land bought and subsequently sold to Department of Forests and Waters.

### TABLE NO. 2

### SUMMARIZED FUNCTIONAL EXPENDITURES

The expenditures of the Commission during the fiscal year ending May 31, 1945 have been subdivided into major activity groupings as follows:

| | | *Part of Dollar* |
|---|---|---|
| *Game Protection* (Salaries and Expenses incident to Law Enforcement, Game Feeding, Game Distribution, Assisting in enforcement of Fish and Forest Laws, and other field activities, but excluding cost for Training School and Feed for Game) .. | $312,084.41 | 25.01¢ |
| *Management of Game Lands* (Salaries and Expenses of Land Management Game Protectors and other employes incident to maintenance and development work on 1,065,211 acres of purchased and leased Game Lands and 1,135 Game Refuges, and fixed charges in lieu of taxes) ..... | 254,402.98 | 20.38¢ |
| *Game Purchases and Propagation* (Including expenditures for equipment and operating four State Game Farms, and wild game transfer) ..... | 220,020.67 | 17.63¢ |
| *Acquisition of Game Lands* (Including title and survey work, mostly capital investment) ..... | 147,403.42 | 11.81¢ |
| *Payment of Bounties* ..... | 67,813.31 | 5.43¢ |
| *Field Division Administration* (Salaries and Expenses incident to maintaining seven Division offices) ..... | 53,165.75 | 4.26¢ |
| *Accounting and Budget* (Including Legal Advertising, Mailing and Storeroom, General Printing, etc.) ..... | 47,466.63 | 3.80¢ |
| *Public Education* (Including GAME NEWS, Motion Pictures, Exhibits, General Bulletins, etc.) ..... | 57,527.68 | 4.61¢ |
| *Executive Office Administration* (Executive Office salaries and expenses, and expenses of Commissioners) ..... | 22,474.88 | 1.80¢ |
| *Hunting Licenses and Tags* ..... | 24,152.59 | 1.94¢ |
| *Game-Kill Tabulation* (Including expenses incident thereto) .... | 17,419.48 | 1.40¢ |
| *Research* (Salaries and Expenses incident to various Projects dealing with studies of game birds, game animals, furbearers and predators for the Commission's guidance in developing management programs) ..... | 9,033.01 | .72¢ |
| *Bear Damage* ..... | 2,809.35 | .23¢ |
| *Training School* (Training of Officers) ..... | 1,141.21 | .09¢ |
| *Feed for Wild Game* ..... | 11,165.30 | .89¢ |
| TOTALS ..... | $1,248,080.67 | $1.00 |

### TABLE NO. 3

### ANALYSIS OF GAME FUND BALANCES AT PERIODS INDICATED BELOW:

| *Balances:* | | May 31, 1944 | | May 31, 1945 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| State Treasury to Credit of Game Fund ..... | $2,109,497.33 | | $2,233,036.93 | |
| Advancement Account for Payment of Bounties ..... | 40,000.00 | | 2,206.50 | |
| | $2,149,497.33 | | $2,235,243.43 | |
| *Deduct* Expenses Chargeable to this period but paid by State Treasury after May 31 ..... | 53,945.46 | | 28,764.29 | |
| | $2,095,551.87 | | $2,206,479.14 | |
| *Add* War Bond Investment ..... | ..... | | 200,000.00 | |
| Total Amount Available ..... | | $2,095,551.87* | | $2,406,479.14* |
| **Amount Available is Subdivided as follows:* | | | | |
| Reserved from Previous and Current Budget Allocations to Cover Commitments for Land Purchases and Other Items Chargeable to Current Fiscal Year ..... | $207,137.99 | | $179,228.75 | |
| Allocated and Committed for Budgetary Purposes for Period Beginning June 1 ..... | 392,735.48 | | 514,675.00 | |
| *Wartime Reserve:* | | | | |
| General Operating Fund ..... | 773,425.00 | | 809,600.00 | |
| Purchase and Maintenance of Game Lands ..... | 377,575.00 | 1,750,873.47 | 558,000.00 | 2,061,503 75 |
| Net Operating Balance Available ..... | | $ 344,678.40 | | $ 344,975.39 |

$514,675.00—The Commission's financial program is predicated upon a plan whereby a sizable surplus in the nature of unallocated and unexpended balances is expected at the end of every fiscal year to carry over to the next biennium for budgetary purposes. Unallocated money refers to the amount of actual revenue in excess of the budget estimate. By unexpended balances we have in mind the credit balances in the budget after all expenses have been paid and the necessary amount has been set aside to cover commitments, or further increase the reserve. Having a large part of next year's budget covered by cash in the bank with a conservative revenue budget estimate to cover the balance of it, as against a budget based entirely on a liberal prospective revenue estimate without any cash balance from the previous year, precludes the possibility of overspending anticipated revenue.

4. Wartime Reserve, $1,367,600.00—The "Special Reserve" created four years ago in the amount of $107,200.00 has been increased to $1,367,600.00. This "Reserve" was originally created for use during the war to compensate for anticipated loss of revenue due to decreased license sales. Fortunately the sharp anticipated decrease in the license sale did not occur. Because of this and the fact that normal expenditures dropped, it has been possible to further increase the "Reserve" annually from June 1941 to June 1945. The "Reserve" includes $558,000 standing to the credit of 75c fund for the purchase and maintenance of State Game Lands. It is felt that the "Reserve" of $1,367,600.00 together with anticipated increased revenues in future years will provide ample funds to catch up on the many major projects which necessarily had to be delayed due to priorities, shortage of labor, etc., and finance the comprehensive postwar program.

5. Regular Operating Reserve, $344,975.39—After deducting the amounts referred to under items 2, 3, and 4 from the May 31, 1945 balance of $2,206,479.14, the amount has been reduced to $344,975.39, the "Regular Operating Reserve", which has been carried for many years. It provides a perpetual fund to pay normal operating expenses each year from June 1 to September 30, during which time very little revenue is credited to the "Game Fund".

### Value of Game Taken

In the old days the efficiency of the conservation program was largely measured by the number of pounds of game in the bag at the end of the day's hunt. Fortunately today most of our sportsmen take a more liberal view. They look forward to delightful days afield as a release from the "daily grind" days which afford them healthful recreation and a splendid opportunity to fraternize with other hunters. They are satisfied with a good chase and a few pieces of game.

It is regretted that the total estimated value of the 1944 game-kill and the fur resources cannot be made a part of this report, due to the fact that a small percentage of hunters were negligent and were still filing their 1944 Game-Kill Reports (in response

High-jumping 'coon dog barks "tree" at the end of one of the heats held at a field trial staged recently at Valley Forge Hospital for the benefit of convalescing servicemen and women.

to special notices mailed by the Commission) at the time this issue of the GAME NEWS went to press. However, it is believed that when the reports have been tabulated the results, as heretofore, will be most gratifying. During the 1943-44 fiscal year the estimated value of the game and raw furs was $7,050,500.81. The expenditures during the same year amounted to $1,183,483.13.

### Capital Investments

In the matter of capital investments, by which we mean land, buildings, operating equipment, etc., the Commission is somewhat similar to private industry. These capital investments have and will continue to be an important factor in keeping Pennsylvania among the leaders in conservation. The sportsmen who have not kept in close touch with the program are amazed when apprised of the fact that the capital investments now aggregate $4,291,600.91, the details of which excluding obsolete equipment disposed of, appear below:

| | |
|---|---|
| State Game Lands ..... | $3,744,119.58 (a) |
| Buildings on Game Lands .. | 152,144.00 (b) |
| State Game Farms (including lands, buildings, farm and propagation equipment) .. | 290,634.40 (b) |
| Training School (including buildings and equipment) | 30,449.10 (10) |
| Current Equipment (including automobiles, trucks, tractors, graders, etc.) ..... | 74,253.83 (b) |
| Total ..... | $4,291,600.91 |

(a) Consideration paid for lands (including title and survey costs).

(b) Estimated value as of May 31, 1945.

It is obvious that these capital investments must of necessity be safeguarded in order to reap the maximum benefits therefrom. It, therefore, follows that the Commission must provide for the annual maintenance, development and utilization of such investments. Money for these expenditures is budgeted from current revenue.

### Use of Tables

We have made the information available in several varying forms. This should meet the needs of the sportsmen desiring only condensed information and by the same token satisfy those who desire more detailed information.

### Audit of Financial Affairs

Under the provisions of the Administrative Code the Department of Auditor General is charged with the responsibility of auditing State Departments, Boards and Commissions. The Commission's accounts have been audited to May 31, 1943 and appropriate reports filed.

### Hunters' Licenses Issued

Continuing our customary practice, thereby making reference to previously published reports unnecessary, we are giving below the licenses issued (by years), from the enactment of the Resident License Law in 1913:

| Year | Resident | Non-Resident | Total Licenses Issued |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1913 ..... | 305,028 | No Record | 305,028 |
| 1914 ..... | 298,972 | 462 | 299,434 |
| 1915 ..... | 262,355 | 532 | 262,887 |
| 1916 ..... | 290,422 | 662 | 291,084 |
| 1917 ..... | 315,474 | 588 | 316,062 |
| 1918 ..... | 311,290 | 478 | 311,768 |
| 1919 ..... | 401,130 | 1,128 | 402,258 |
| 1920 ..... | 432,240 | 1,725 | 433,965 |
| 1921 ..... | 462,371 | 1,761 | 464,132 |
| 1922 ..... | 473,735 | 2,126 | 475,861 |
| 1923 ..... | 497,216 | 2,328 | 499,544 |
| 1924 ..... | 501,572 | 2,558 | 504,130 |
| 1925 ..... | 521,855 | 3,190 | 525,045 |
| 1926 ..... | 520,574 | 3,468 | 524,042 |
| 1927 ..... | 501,622 | 4,879 | 506,501 |
| 1928 ..... | 437,727 | 1,190 | 438,917 |
| 1929 ..... | 505,103 | 4,823 | 509,926 |
| 1930 ..... | 530,392 | 6,009 | 536,401 |
| 1931 ..... | 572,779 | 8,964 | 581,743 |
| 1932 ..... | 537,451 | 5,251 | 542,702 |
| 1933 ..... | 524,337 | 4,966 | 529,303 |
| 1934 ..... | 568,666 | 6,024 | 574,690 |
| 1935 ..... | 606,469 | 8,460 | 614,929 |
| 1936 ..... | 534,573 | 7,124 | 541,697 |
| 1937 ..... | 598,261 | 8,357 | 606,618 |
| 1938 ..... | 654,146 | 7,584 | 661,730 |
| 1939 ..... | 653,852 | 9,047 | 662,899 |
| 1940 ..... | 666,420 | 12,748 | 679,168 |
| 1941 ..... | 675,434 | 10,922 | 686,356 |
| 1942 ..... | 640,821 | 8,394 | 649,215 |
| 1943 ..... | 570,901 | 11,833 | 582,734 |
| 1944* .... | 592,220 | 13,969 | 606,189 |

* Incomplete report, subject to slight change.

Photo by Leo A. Luttringer, Jr.

Beaver kit found wandering along road in Lycoming County. It was a roly-poly little fellow and as tame as a kitten.

## TABLE NO. 4
## STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES—PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION
## FISCAL YEAR JUNE 1, 1944 TO MAY 31, 1945

### REVENUE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Balance in State Treasury to credit of "Game Fund" June 1, 1944 | $2,109,497.33 | |
| Add: Advancement for the payment of bounties | 40,000.00 | |
| Less: Unwarranted requisitions chargeable to year ended May 31, 1944 | $2,149,497.33<br>53,945.46 | |
| Funds available June 1, 1944 | | $2,095,551.87 |
| *Receipts during period:* | | |
| Net Revenue from Hunters' Licenses | $1,334,609.95 | |
| Game Law Fines | 51,687.65 | |
| Special Game Permits | 12,716.00 | |
| Interest on Deposits | 14,315.55 | |
| Forest Products from Game Lands | 61,488.35 | |
| Skins Sold | 3,740.14 | |
| Unserviceable Property | 681.77 | |
| Rentals | 2,187.26 | |
| Publications | 14,035.75 | |
| Contributions from Federal Government | 54,129.67 | |
| Miscellaneous Revenue | 9,415.85 | |
| Receipts credited to Game Fund during year | | $1,559,007.94 |
| Total credits during year, plus balance at June 1, 1944 | | $3,654,559.81 |
| Less: War Bond Investment | | 200,000.00 |
| | | $3,454,559.81 |

### EXPENDITURES

| | Executive Office & Division of Accounting and Budget | Propagation, Purchase & Distribution of Game | Game Research | Division of Law Enforcement: General | Division of Law Enforcement: Bounties | Refuges and Lands: Acquisition | Refuges and Lands: Management | Public Information | Field Division Administration | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Salaries | $ 45,824.42 | $ 22,336.18 | $1,568.50 | $165,100.26 | $ 8,274.00 | $13,475.62 | $89,763.17 | $14,033.74 | $33,925.20 | $ 394,301.09 |
| Traveling Expenses of Salaried Employes | 2,079.71 | 3,484.58 | 1,064.79 | 72,730.64 | 729.58 | 678.95 | 19,018.88 | 724.34 | 8,118.13 | 108,629.60 |
| Deputy Game Protectors: Wages $22,666.50; Expenses 12,482.33 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 35,148.83 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 35,148.83 |
| Wages: Labor Cutting Fire, Refuge & Boundary Lines, Road Repairs, etc. | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 50,191.69 | ..... | ..... | 50,191.69 |
| Labor at Game Farms, etc. | 5,909.49 | 46,533.94 | 2,435.34 | 16,642.16 | 864.52 | 3,326.57 | ..... | 2,518.15 | 1,848.08 | 80,078.25 |
| Cooperative Farm-Game Program | ..... | 1,904.70 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 30.00 | 14,907.61 | ..... | ..... | 16,842.31 |
| Purchase of Game | ..... | 46,853.90 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 46,853.90 |
| Rabbit Trapping & Wild Game Transfer | ..... | 37,834.59 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 37,834.59 |
| Feed for Game | ..... | 18,969.64 | 3.90 | 11,165.30 | ..... | ..... | 97.76 | ..... | ..... | 30,236.60 |
| Express and Cartage | 28.08 | 1,626.49 | 1.33 | 511.77 | 28.98 | 8.13 | 1,076.58 | 147.91 | 16.87 | 3,446.14 |
| Purchase of State Game Lands (title and survey included) | ..... | 12,580.43 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 123,602.08 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 136,182.51 |
| Fixed Charges in Lieu of Taxes | ..... | 115.70 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 37,457.32 | ..... | ..... | 37,573.02 |
| Building and Construction | ..... | 3,931.34 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 365.95 | ..... | ..... | 4,297.29 |
| Repairs to Buildings, Grounds & Equipment by contract | 147.73 | 357.26 | 8.35 | 136.63 | ..... | 15.79 | 1,051.79 | 330.70 | 55.50 | 2,103.75 |
| Training of Officers | ..... | ..... | ..... | 760.81 | ..... | ..... | 380.40 | ..... | ..... | 1,141.21 |
| Equipment | 96.80 | 1,847.65 | ..... | 167.22 | 62.00 | 1,565.73 | 442.80 | 1,247.95 | 158.40 | 5,588.55 |
| Miscellaneous Supplies | 1,452.82 | 11,257.65 | 674.10 | 1,576.81 | 2,891.04 | 104.13 | 9,402.12 | 2,276.00 | 187.93 | 29,822.60 |
| Motor Supplies | 771.30 | 2,748.25 | ..... | 308.43 | 27.82 | 124.58 | 10,885.01 | 538.25 | 230.38 | 15,634.02 |
| Light, Power and Fuel | ..... | 2,760.95 | 93.15 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 242.27 | ..... | 264.25 | 3,330.62 |
| Insurance | 896.80 | 865.02 | 56.08 | 2,567.18 | 101.79 | 158.76 | 2,390.33 | 192.28 | 410.04 | 7,638.28 |
| Postage, Telephone & Telegraph | 4,954.44 | 641.62 | 66.48 | 6,303.23 | 542.39 | 129.32 | 2,903.88 | 864.99 | 3,070.94 | 19,477.29 |
| Rentals—Monthly Auto Storage, etc. | 496.90 | 2,384.06 | ..... | 73.00 | ..... | 2,700.00 | 9,402.70 | 212.03 | 3,621.00 | 18,889.69 |
| Bounty Payments and Grants | ..... | ..... | 3,000.00 | ..... | 52,978.00 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 55,978.00 |
| Refunds of Receipts | 45.00 | ..... | ..... | 370.00 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 415.00 |
| Game-Kill Tabulation & Expenses Incident to checking Lists | 17,419.48 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 17,419.48 |
| Fees: Attorneys, Medical, Taxidermy, etc. | ..... | 15.00 | ..... | 336.60 | 68.00 | 115.00 | 194.00 | 2,541.60 | ..... | 3,270.20 |
| Damage by Bears | ..... | ..... | ..... | 2,809.35 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 2,809.35 |
| Other Maintenance Services and Expenses | 602.37 | 67.09 | ..... | 347.75 | 353.55 | 56.41 | 80.31 | 458.71 | 42.79 | 2,008.98 |
| Newspaper Advertising | 4,809.65 | ..... | ..... | 19.90 | ..... | 131.83 | 608.24 | ..... | ..... | 5,569.62 |
| Printing, Binding and Paper | 2,955.45 | 34.21 | ..... | 585.12 | 619.02 | 184.84 | 573.21 | 30,918.82 | 29.99 | 35,900.66 |
| Printing Hunters' Licenses, Tags and Misc. Forms (through Dept. of Revenue) | 24,152.59 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 24,152.59 |
| Administering State Employes' Retirement System (through Dept. of State) | 1,644.94 | 870.42 | 60.99 | 6,349.53 | 272.62 | 995.68 | 3,347.36 | 522.21 | 1,186.25 | 15,250.00 |
| Replacement Checks (Through Dept. of Treasury) | 34.96 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 34.96 |
| TOTALS | $114,322.93 | $220,020.67 | $9,033.01* | $324,010.52 | $67,813.31 | $147,403.42 | $254,783.38 | $57,527.68 | $53,165.75 | $1,248,080.67 |
| Funds Available May 31, 1945 | | | | | | | | | | $2,206,479.14* |

* FROM THIS AMOUNT MUST BE DEDUCTED $1,861,503.75 FOR THE PURPOSES INDICATED BELOW:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Amount reserved from previous and current budget allocation to cover commitments mostly for land purchases | | $179,228.75 | |
| Amount allocated for budgetary purposes for the biennium beginning June 1, 1945 | | 512,675.00 | |
| Wartime Reserve (Refer to Page 21 This Article for Details) . | | | |
| General Operating Fund | $809,600.00 | | |
| Purchases and Maintenance of Game Lands | 558,000.00 | $1,367,600.00 | |
| Less: War Bond Investment (from Wartime Reserve) | | 200,000.00 | 1,167,600.00 |
| Total deductions | | | 1,861,503.75 |
| This leaves a net operating balance (which amount is required for operating expenses each year after May 31, until revenue from sale of licenses becomes available in the Fall) amounting to | | | $ 344,975.39 |

* * * *

Explanation of Miscellaneous Supplies ..... $ 29,822.60

**$11,257.65** Division of Propagation—for equipment and supplies used in connection with the propagation, purchase and distribution of game; and maintenance and repairs to buildings on the State Game Farms.

**$9,402.12** Division of Land Management—for seed, lime and fertilizer; Game Land and Refuge signs; and materials and tools for maintenance of Game Lands and Game Land headquarters.

**$4,467.85** Division of Law Enforcement—for ammunition and traps for controlling predators.

**$4,694.98 for miscellaneous office supplies,** films for educational purposes and maintenance and repairs to Research Station at the Loyalsock State Game Farm.

# Grass Roots of the Future

(Continued from page 7)

Photo by Dr. C. S. Apgar.
No civilization has ever yet survived the disappearance of its forests.

tensive natural unit, but is comparatively powerless in doing anything for timber conservation on widely scattered territories privately held. He can advise and endeavor to educate, but he cannot prevent the destruction if the owner is determined to see it through. The question arises, "Has the time come in the interests of the natural heritage of future generations to extend the principle of the Right of Eminent Domain to abridge the freedom to destroy, even on lands privately held, and by the owners themselves?"

Brilliant minds with a high sense of justice, backed by an uncompromising high purpose will need to influence the laws in every state if true conservation is to be guaranteed—unless education can accomplish the same results in time. But in any event the objective must come first, backed by those with enough conviction, enough courage and enough authority not to compromise. For, as stated above, Nature herself can never compromise.

The recently accelerated plan of the Izaak Walton League to press for the teaching of Conservation in all of our schools fits in beautifully with this idea that returning servicemen shall be the champions of conservation in the future. These may have the burning zeal to save America at home as they have done all over the world, but they will be young, many of them with a partial higher education, many with none at all. However, the government has already pledged to them the opportunities of higher learning. It is time we insist there be included in the curriculum of these post-war students the subject of Conservation as it applies to everything desirable in outdoor America.

The required course for a graduate expert in conservation should be the basic liberal arts curriculum with heavy emphasis on the sciences, particularly biology, physiology, geology, and physics, and the related subjects of hygiene, physiography, and hydraulics, the latter to include some higher mathematics and civil engineering. One is tempted to nominate a new science, in a sense an origination of the Izaak Walton League, called Biological Engineering, and a new specialist, the Biological Engineer.

The graduate conservationist would, in addition to other qualifications, be very much a biologist and something of an engineer. Having acquired the broad general education above suggested he should, before qualifying as expert, read most everything of major significance known about conservation here and abroad, and should be endowed to make comparative studies in foreign fields. He could, as examples, learn about fish culture in Russia, and forestry, flood control, and hygienic water management from Norway, Denmark, Holland and England—and from the civilized elements, if any, in Germany.

From this reservoir of informed authorities on conservation, including, young persons who for good reason were not in the armed services, could be drawn teachers for the subject in our public schools. From it could also come the needed reserves, the vital driving force, to keep the subject alive and aggressive in the press, in the lecture room and wherever its influence need be felt.

The ground-work has been laid, and these young men and women would have many loyal friends to guide them, work with them and back them to the limit. As well they should, for it was the improvident older generations who gave to them a second world war, and who will soon be handing over to them a Nature's America requiring many long-term credits in lieu of an America overflowing with the quick assets their sacrifice so richly deserves.

Photo by C. G. Krieble.
Unless we wish to try out the statement under the above photo by our own national experience we will need some heroic timber policies for the future.

# Now It Can Be Told

(Continued from page 4)

his groundwork organization. In some manner he learned of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, and called on President Ross L. Leffler, who outlined the administrative organization of the field employes of the Commission. McKee apparently felt that the Commission could render valuable assistance in the program and solicited its help. Mr. Leffler promptly gave his consent to its use and directed the writer to work out detailed plans for cooperation.

Special Agent McKee and the writer spent the better part of an entire day discussing the best ways and means to accomplish the purpose. McKee quickly approved the writer's opinion that the most effective means of utilizing the services of the Game Protectors was to secretly retain the fact that they were assisting in any manner. It seemed more logical that a Game Protector could obtain information as a representative of the Game Commission, than he could if it were known he was gathering information that ultimately would reach the F.B.I. Accordingly, detailed and secret plans were made whereby information concerning the internal security of the Country coming to the knowledge of field officers was promptly submitted on special forms to the Chief of the Division of Law Enforcement, who acted as coordinator between the Commission and the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh offices of the F.B.I. Specially prepared secret reports were designed for this purpose. Incidentally, the Philadelphia office of the F.B.I. had accepted and approved for the Eastern jurisdiction, the plan adopted at Pittsburgh with Special Agent McKee, thus gaining a statewide coverage.

The field reports were rephrased and transmitted, respectively to the Pittsburgh or Philadelphia offices of the F.B.I., according to the geographic jurisdiction involved. During the war fourteen (14) cases of suspected persons, "situations," or "incidents," regarding internal security were transmitted to the Philadelphia office, and seven (7) similar cases coming under the jurisdiction of the Pittsburgh office were directed for their attention.

The F.B.I. has adopted a policy of "total elimination" of every single complaint, oral or written, that it received, whether or not it indicated on the surface that an investigation was worthwhile or justified.

The writer was selected as the coordinator for all inter-investigational work desired by the F.B.I. During the course of the war fifty-one (51) cases requesting detailed investigations were referred to our offices at Harrisburg for investigation. These fell in seven (7) different classifications, all directly related with internal security or violations of the Selective Service Laws. More than three hundred (300) persons were judiciously interviewed, often without the identity of the interviewer being disclosed.

It would be most unwise to relate in this article either the type or class of investigations performed, or to reveal the identities of those under investigation. Many of the allegedly suspected persons were prominent, professional and businessmen in the communities in which they resided. More frequently than not, these persons were totally innocent of any wrongdoing, intentional or otherwise. Others, however, felt that they could develop "fool proof" schemes whereby they would never be caught. They learned they were entirely wrong in their suppositions. But each case had to be eliminated, either in the affirmative or negative, without prejudice, fear or favor. The investigative task in each case required tact, integrity, and a constant vigilance that even the slightest infringement of the rights and civil liberties of American citizens were not violated.

Frequently it was necessary to supplement the final reports with documentary evidence of proof. All of this type of investigational work was carried on personally by the writer, and some of the Field Division Supervisors, namely, Rollin Heffelfinger, Hayes T. Englert, W. J. Davis, and J. C. Gilford. They were selected because of certain conditions that arose in connection with the investigations. The cooperation of a few Game Protectors was utilized, principally on surveillance work. All of them did a splendid, thorough and reliable job. The writer pays high tribute to their abilities and integrity.

The United States Army Intelligence at Pittsburgh was confronted with the problem of "checking" thousands of applicants seeking work in Army Ordnance plants in the central and northern parts of the State. They solicited the aid of the Commission, and a plan somewhat comparable to the plan effected with the F.B.I. was employed, except that in these cases local Game Protectors participated more actively. More than fourteen hundred (1400) prospective employes were "checked" and reported for this agency in a little less than seven months. Space does not permit the long tabulation of field officers who cooperated in this important function.

Another plan was devised to protect the interests of the F.B.I. Game Protectors were temporarily restrained from searching the residence or home of a suspected alien, until clearance had been obtained from the Law Enforcement Division of the Commission at Harrisburg. This procedure did not retard operations in the least. The suspect's name, address and nationality, having previously been transmitted to the Harrisburg Headquarters, was referred, by telephone, to the proper F.B.I. office for "checking" before the search was authorized. The purpose was obvious and eliminated interference on the part of Game Protectors with any work in which the F. B. I. was specifically and actively engaged with the subject at the time of the proposed search. The work of the F.B.I. might have been much more important than a search for the unlawful possession of a shotgun, rifle or dog, being used for hunting purposes by an alien.

Aliens in the field, while hunting, were as usual, arrested on sight.

Copies of prosecution reports were transmitted to the F.B.I. in all alien cases. This information supplemented or supplied new data for their files.

From 1940 to 1945, Special Agents in Charge of the Pittsburgh District with whom we cooperated were: Messrs. S. K. McKee, J. E. Thornton, H. K. Johnson and H. T. O'Connor. In line with Bureau policy, they have all been transferred to new assignments. In Philadelphia, during the same period of time, Mr. J. F. Sears was the Special Agent in Charge. Each of these men were competent, highly respected gentlemen with whom it has been a distinct pleasure to work.

This article has not been written with any thought in mind of aggrandizing the cooperation of the Game Protectors in preference, or in excess of the splendid cooperation rendered by other agencies of the State Government, or private agencies who afforded equally fine aid to Federal agencies. I refer to the Pennsylvania State Police, the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and more than ten score loyal Americans with whom I had the pleasure to associate during this most interesting and fascinating work.

In conclusion, it is my hope that my friend who was somewhat critical of the "at home" Game Protector will see this article and learn of the wonderful services these officers offered to their country willingly, unhesitatingly, and loyally gave their Country since, "Now it can be told."

---

## HAMHEAD HOGG

*By* S. A. Orr and R. G. Rodkey

**"Wow! There's a lot of game this year! I can hardly wait for hunting season to open!"**

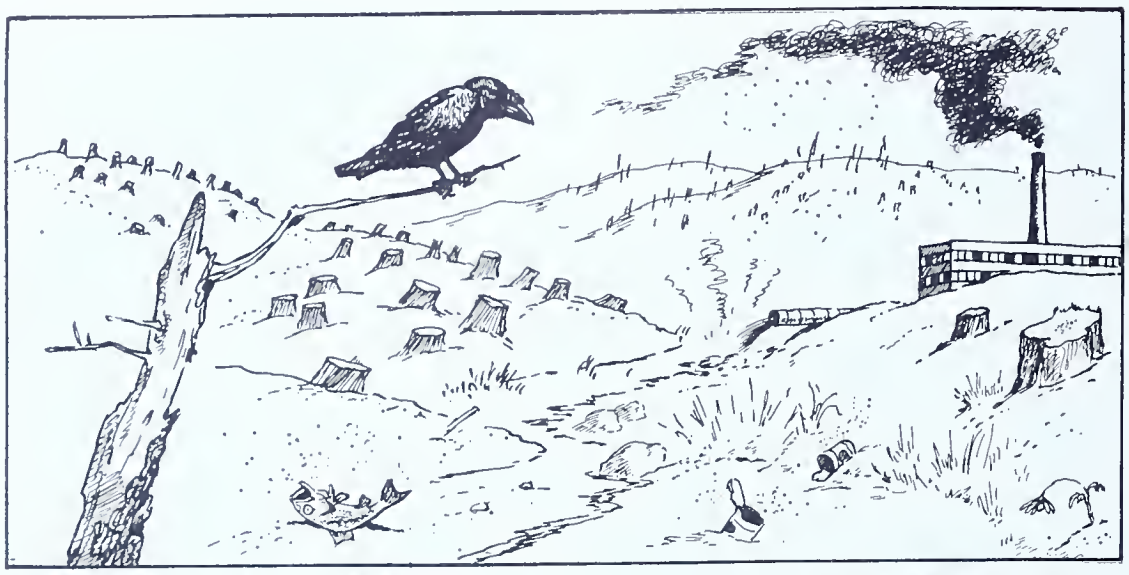
---

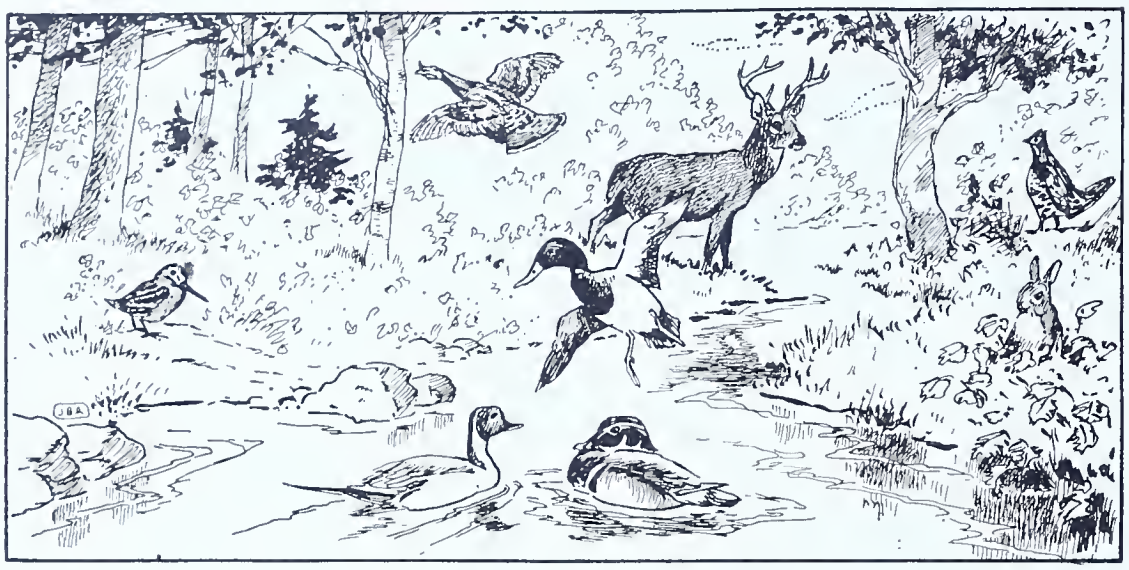
Dill is a native of Mediterranean countries, southern Russia, and grows wild in various parts of Africa and Asia.

---

Mistletoe is a semiparasite; it has absorbing organs to obtain materials from the host plant, and at the same time has chlorophyll which enables it to manufacture food.

# Timber and Game--Twin Crops





**Which do you want your children to see?**

fessional foresters but the supply of technicians stopped there.

In many places by 1920 wildlife stocks were in a bad way. The general use of the automobile had both spread out and intensified gun pressure. In earlier decades, if game supplies dwindled near home there were generally happy hunting grounds farther on. But man's triumph over distance tapped these natural reservoirs of wildlife reserves. Something besides going more miles to hunt needed doing and all of a sudden game officials realized that their old cut-and-dry methods, their reliance on restrictive laws alone, had not panned out. They had been, one might say, relying on midwives to treat a serious ailment. Now they commenced yelling for a doctor.

The colleges responded and the output of augmented curricula was absorbed rapidly. Countless competent investigations were launched, experiments set up and programs laid out which pulled the management of game species from the realm of guesswork down toward sound and scientific procedure.

Techniques of censusing game populations were evolved. It was determined how much of this or that a deer or an elk must have to eat, how much of it was available and how fast it could reproduce itself, all of which made for a clear idea of range capacities. Progress was made on the important item of desirable sex ratios, the balance between summer and winter needs of animals and a long list of other important factors.

*Game-Forest Objectives Dovetail*

But perhaps more significant was the demonstration that game is not a thing apart from man's other interests nor its management an isolated endeavor. It ties in with most of the other uses made of land, and that throws the game specialist into a tight company composed of agriculturalists, foresters, economists and so on.

In the management of forest-type game, professional and jurisdictional lines between game and forest specialists are already blurred and indistinct. The interests of the two groups overlap and the gears of their organizations naturally mesh. What is good for the objective of one is, in the broad sense, also good for the other.

The idea of sustained yield logging had been well and widely talked before game management had been reduced to definitions. Forest management on this basis calls for the following of one of two general programs. The first is rotation cutting, which means the periodic harvesting of timber on given plots, each of such a size that by the time the last has been covered the site of the first cutting will again be ready to yield merchantable timber. The second program is one of harvesting individual trees so that the mature and cripples are being constantly

*(Continued from page 9)*

removed, thereby speeding growth of the young and healthy.

But by either method edge is constantly created. If game is in the vicinity it will find and use that edge. If game is not present and the cover is of a type which will support a given species seed stock can be introduced in a hurry because the trapping and transfer of game animals has been reduced to a simple procedure. If the edge needs help by the introduction of food plants that can be done, too.

While sustained yield logging is still too new a practice to have reflected many big scale effects on game populations all one needs to do to visualize the possibilities is to remember what happened in the Lake Superior country. The procedure there roughly and just by chance followed some of the basic principles of modern forest management. There was no plan or purpose, true, but some of the results consciously desired today were achieved and the fact that they just happened to come about does not detract from the quality of the demonstration. Here we had a reasonably steady flow of new edge across many millions of acres for over half a century. In that period swamps and some uplands were scenes of cutting two and three times. The yield of forest products was not what it might have been had the original harvest been by plan but that yield, for the region, has been raggedly continuous. And the game supplies have held up, too. Now and again they have faltered in sections but at no time have they failed over wide areas. A hundred miles southward lie regions which had comparable forest types but where the harvest was fast and furious and, because of their fires, more destructive. For decades some of these sections had no deer at all and certain counties remained closed to hunters for the span of a generation. This contrast should rather well emphasize the point.

Of course, the objective advanced by early advocates of sustained forest yield was the continuing supply of wood. Almost as important, however, was the promise of permanence for economic, social and political institutions within the areas. The necessity of giving towns and their populations stability needs no argument. But the greater the diversification of commercial interests, the healthier will be the business and social life in any town. Possibilities for recreation are a distinctly valuable commercial asset to a community and nowhere is the fact better exemplified than in this same Lake Superior country. It is within easy reach of great centers of population, and while the volume of summer tourist traffic is heavy and profitable, nevertheless the annual deer season is the one big harvest time and has been for decades. For many small towns it means just the difference between folding up and staying on the map, and big towns, remember, feed on the well-being of small ones. In forested regions, then, a continuous supply of deer or grouse or any other wildlife form may be just as important to the population of a community as is the sawmill with its payroll.

The demand for forest products for the war effort brought timber operations to many established game areas. For some time cut-

# Dogs Are Conservationists

(Continued from page 12)

row out anything of an edible nature to e frozen fast in the soil, ice, snow, etc. someone else puts out such material, ean it up or report it to the Sanitary Dearment or other City Officials. Neighborood cooperation will do much to eliminate ese dangers.

Usually some of the mild intestinal antiptics or preparations designed to allay inammation and fermentation in the stomach d intestines will control this condition if ven early.

You should not procrastinate about treatent of your dog if seized with nausea and arrhea in mid-winter. Take him to your eterinarian promptly, for then you may pect a prompt recovery. If these cases are ermitted to carry on for several days the ndition is very apt to become so severe, at recovery will be not only postponed but ay become impossible.

Yes, dogs bury bones in mid-winter as they do in the summertime. However, the bone buried by the dog is usually not the offender in these cases. It is the bone or other edible material thrown out by careless individuals which is covered up, not by clean mother earth, but by contaminated ice, snow, etc., which causes the trouble.

General feeding of your dog in wintertime is basically the same as in any other season. The exception would be that in cold weather the dog would use a little more fuel to keep warm. For instance—possibly a slight increase in fats and carbohydrates, with a slight increase in the total intake of food. The old standard peacetime foods of meat, milk, eggs, table fish, dog crackers and water will still be your most dependable and needed foods for mid-winter feeding.

# Timber and Game--Twin Crops

(Conclusion)

ng on a small scale had progressed on game fuges here and there for the purpose of ening canopies and increasing browse. But e war multiplied such activity. Thousands acres have been selectively cut and technical game staffs, trained in collecting and terpreting pertinent data, may very well rn up leads for other forest managers to llow as the ultimate effects on quail, turey and deer populations are demonstrated.

For many years fire has been a tool in uail management in southeastern states. y this means undesirable ground cover was moved and essential openings kept conant. To many a forester the deliberate tting of fire is anathema and because burng seemed to function well for the game anager's purposes there was for a time rather definite hesitancy in some forestry rcles to give game interests a wholearted welcome. But those fires were on e whole reasonably well controlled. Michian experimented for years with fire as a eans of pruning wild blueberry bushes and emonstrated that not only the size of burngs but their speed and intensity can be lanned. So it is not unreasonable to beeve that in the future fire may be used ore or less extensively as a means of mainining openings in forests where the growth as attained no commercial value and in nsequence would be too costly to remove y any other method.

But with the upsurge of demand for forest roducts southern quail managers broadened eir habitat improvement by use of the xe. In this region, as was indicated earlier, e association of quail with agriculture is either so close nor so fixed as it is farther orth. Many a tract of timber on plantaons where quail production is of large conomic importance was thinned during the arly 'forties with a special eye to improving ites for the coveys, and the coveys put ose new facilities promptly to use.

The Pacific Northwest presents its own peculiar problems. Factors wholly missing elsewhere are present. Variations of tree species, rainfall and soil types inject all manner of complications into relatively small areas. Deer, elk and the native blue and dusky grouse like the cutovers and burns, and burns must always be reckoned with so long as man is careless with fire, and lightning strikes. But in many sections tree growth is so rapid that what makes good habitat today is something else again a few years later. Dense canopies close in a surprisingly short span of time. On the other hand, certain trees reach merchantable size in from thirty to forty years, which makes possible a rotation harvest on a short cycle.

Recent studies of the blacktail deer in Oregon opened new possibilities for increasing and sustaining its populations. It was shown that in many places too heavy a kill of deer was permitted too early in their invasion of new clearings. The great Tillamook burn of 1939, when 300,000 acres of virgin timber were laid waste, gave excellent opportunity for observation and a try-out of management techniques. After two years of protection and then a program of moderate shooting the population had increased 1500 per cent by 1943. Furthermore, the condition of specimens taken was far better than it had been when openings were few and far between.

*Game Is Crop . . . Like Timber*

In such a presentation as this, of course, it is only possible to generalize. Our objective has been to draw the picture in broad strokes and, indeed had detail been desirable, many blanks would have appeared on the canvas. The science of game management is new. The surface has scarcely been scratched. Understanding the needs and responses of wild things is not as simple as is the job when domestic flocks and herds are concerned.

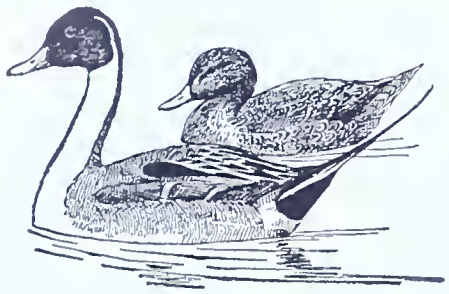
Still, we are on our way. Foresters, in their long-range planning, are no longer inattentive to the wants of the sportsman or the demands of the things he hunts. Game is recognized as a cash asset. More important, it is recognized as a *crop*, to be grown by tried and approved practices and to be harvested intelligently.

Just how much larger the annual yield may safely be in the future is anybody's guess. But this much seems certain: for many parts of the country we have not even approached the upper limits. With increasing emphasis on the necessity and economic feasibility of cropping not only our remaining stands of virgin timber but those millions of acres of second growth and man-planted forests which are coming along, the outlook for more and more sustained yield logging should be good if we are as far-sighted as we think we are. Once that practice is widespread and general, and once the slight modifications in standard operational procedure which make for better game habitat are recognized and heeded, the battle for more of those game types which depend on forests is largely won.

It is no longer necessary to await the slow and natural infiltration of birds and mammals to newly created habitat. A few traps in places of abundance, a few trucks, a few days and, lo, the seed stock is planted! Learning, as we are, what it takes to keep that wildlife healthy, contented and self-productive; knowing, as we are coming to know, the capacities of given ranges and what they may safely yield in given periods; aware, as we have become, of the expected growth of the hunting legions as time reels on; and appreciating, as we do, the physical and spiritual stimuli that the hunter takes home along with his bag—why, we should be well on our way to a hunting ground where the quality of happiness is secure for all time.

# The Records of a Professional Duck Hunter

(Continued from page 11)



Pintails

days in September (getting 26 Black Ducks and others); 304 days in October (256 Blacks); 255 days in November (204 Blacks), and thirty-four days in December, until the river froze over, netted 36 Black Ducks and others. He killed 18 geese in March, two in November, and one each in December and April.

During the fall months and early spring, the river serves principally as a resting place for the ducks. When low, it affords some feeding. The river varies greatly in depth, in relation to the precipitation over the large watershed. The records for fifty years show the average spring stage is only 1.6 feet over that of the fall.

Some rare birds fell before this hunter's guns. A European Baldpate *(Mareca penelope)* was shot March 25, 1908. A Surf Scoter *(Melanitta perspicillata)*, shot November 2, 1908, and a Golden Plover *(Pluvialis dominica dominica)*, shot October 26, 1920, with a Shoveller, shot September 16, 1908, and a Lesser Snow Goose, shot October 23, 1916, were mounted at the time and recently were presented by Mr. Disney to the State Museum. His records show that he shot six eider ducks on November 26, 1920, six on December 6, 1920, and two in 1929. He states that they were King Eiders. Old State Museum records note that he sold to the museum two King Eiders; one of these, a certain King Eider *(Somateria spectabilis)*, was found recently in the attic of the museum. Bill Minick, his 'buddy,' on November 12, 1930, shot a Blue Goose *(Chen caerulescens)* which was mounted and added to the State Museum. All these birds were shot on the Susquehanna at Harrisburg and are very rare for this district—the only records. Golden Plovers, giving the only records for this area, were shot in 1920, 1922, and 1919 (two). In his day, Disney had shot Long-billed Curlews here and saw Turnstones. He never saw an albino duck. He saw a Passenger Pigeon in 1878 or 1879.

After 1920, when the Biological Survey took over the banding of birds, he shot 1901 ducks, but not one had been banded. Among 350 Canada Geese that he shot (85 since 1897), one which was shot in 1930 carried a band put on by Jack Miner the previous fall.

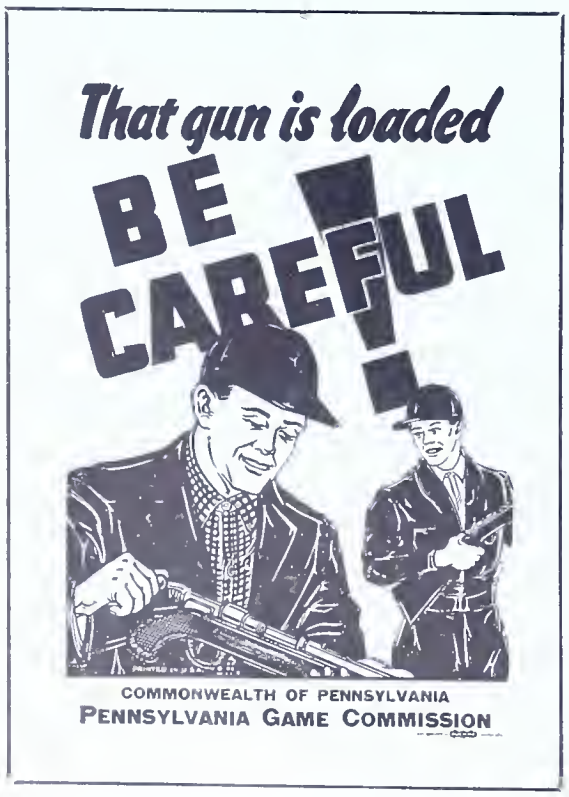
Colloquial names applied to waterfowl, as recorded in the Disney diary, are: Horned Grebe, chickenbill; Gadwall, gray duck; European Widgeon, penelope widgeon; Baldpate, ballphate; Pintail, sprigtail; Shoveller, spoonbill; Redhead, red neck; Ring-necked Duck, acecorn, acorn, or ringbill; Scaup, blackhead, bay blackhead, broadbill, bluebill, and bluehead; Golden-eye, whistler; Buffle-head, piddy; White-winged Scoter, muscovy, also coot; Surf Scoter, sea scoter; Ruddy Duck, Stiffy; Merganser, fisherman, fish duck. The 'blackhead,' of which 1746 were shot, was possibly the Greater Scaup Duck, and the 'bluebill' and 'bluehead' perhaps the Lesser. The 'shad duck' or 'shaddy,' with two recorded, was probably a young Scaup, according to his description.

Other birds which fell before the gun of this erstwhile hunter included 19 other plovers, Wilson's Snipe, Bob-white and Pheasants, a Wild Turkey, rails and doves. When hunting he assumed the attitude of others, that the quantity was limitless, but he now appreciates the fact that such gunning has, at least in his neighborhood, practically exterminated such birds as the Ruddy Duck, Gadwall, Redhead and Brant, and has made the Canvas-back, Ring-neck, Buffle-head, and Scoter such local rarities that to discover one is an event.

*Waterfowl Shot by Hardie Disney at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, 1897 to 1938*

| | |
|---|---|
| Common Loon, *Gavia immer immer* | [illegible] |
| Horned Grebe, *Colymbus auritus* | [illegible] |
| Whistling Swan, *Cygnus columbianus* | 1[illegible] |
| Canada Goose, *Branta canadensis canadensis* | 8[illegible] |
| Snow Goose, *Chen hyperborea* | [illegible] |
| American Brant, *Branta bernicla hrota* | [illegible] |
| Common Mallard, *Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos* | 90[illegible] |
| Black Duck, *Anas rubripes tristis* | 153[illegible] |
| Gadwall, *Chaulelasmus streperus* | 8[illegible] |
| European Widgeon, *Mareca penelope* | [illegible] |
| Baldpate, *Mareca americana* | 26[illegible] |
| American Pintail, *Dafila acuta tzitbihoa* | 90[illegible] |
| 'Teal,' *Nettion carolinense* and *Querquedula discors* | 18[illegible] |
| Shoveller, *Spatula clypeata* | 2[illegible] |
| Wood Duck, *Aix sponsa* | 2[illegible] |
| Redhead, *Nyroca americana* | 63[illegible] |
| Ring-necked Duck, *Nyroca collaris* | 10[illegible] |
| Canvas-back, *Nyroca valisineria* | 41[illegible] |
| Greater Scaup Duck, *Nyroca Marila* | 175 |
| Lesser Scaup Duck, *Nyroca affinis* | 19[illegible] |
| American Golden-eye, *Glaucionetta clangula americana* | 27 |
| Buffle-head, *Charitonetta albeola* | 50 |
| King Eider, *Somateria spectabilis* | |
| White-winged Scoter, *Melanitta deglandi* | 33 |
| Surf Scoter, *Melanitta perspicillata* | |
| Ruddy Duck, *Erismatura jamaicensis rubida* | 68 |
| Merganser, *Mergus* sp.? | 21 |
| American Coot, *Fulica americana americana* | 1 |

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania



## THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW

There is danger in hunting the fall mushroom, as the species numbers into the hundreds and many are poisonous. One of the good mushrooms is the Royal or King Cap. It has a smooth top which carries colors of yellow and orange with yellow gills. This flat-capped mushroom is held up by a yellow stem and at full growth the cap is grooved at the edges. The King Cap will test your knowledge of mushrooms, for it resembles certain poisonous types and the beginner should use caution. Everyone knows the Button, or Pink Bottomed, mushrooms that are sold in containers in markets. These are cultivated from the common field mushrooms and in the fall the offspring of these fine eatables will be found growing only in fields and dry pastures. One thing to remember when hunting mushrooms is that any eatable mushroom found growing near rodent holes, spikes or castoff refuse can be poisonous.

---

Fats, more than any other food, have the ability to satisfy hunger.

## CLUB NOTES—*Continued*

Martinsburg sportsmen have constructed o pens 24 x 48 feet and 6 feet high cov-ed with wire netting to house the 200 y-old ringneck peeps they recently re-ived from the Jordon State Game Farm to ise and release in their section.

---

John M. Phillips of Pittsburgh, "that grand d man of conservation," was the guest eaker at a gathering of 400 at the St. Marys ortmen's Association's 10th anniversary nquet at Central High School on June 21.

"If a farmer neglected his cattle as we ortsmen neglect feeding our game life, 'd be hauled to jail so quick his head uld swim," Mr. Phillips told the gathering. e urged hunters and Boy Scouts to plant it trees in the woods to provide natural od for wildlife.

Other special guests in attendance were: r. H. E. Kilgus, Brockway, member of the ame Commission; James H. Kell, Harris-irg, State Secretary of Forests and Waters; ate Senator George B. Stevenson, Lock aven; Congressman Leon H. Gavin, Oil ty; Assemblyman H. P. Sorg, St. Marys; aj. John H. Dodds, Army Engineering orps, Pittsburgh; and Mr. Wilson, techni-l engineer, Army Engineering Corps, ttsburgh.

During the afternoon preceding the ban-iet Mr. Phillips was taken to the site Middle Fork where the first state lands ere purchased during his administration, id where the sportsmen of the state pro-se at some time in the future to erect a emorial in his honor.

---

The Federated Sportsmen of Lancaster ounty held a special meeting at Mt. Joy June 11 as a celebration of their one-indredth meeting.

---

The Fayette County Fish and Game Pro-ctive Association recently lost one of its yal workers in the person of Robert Lint Vanderbilt, Pa., who passed away on Fri-ay, July 13, 1945 of a heart condition.

Mr. Lint was a director of the county sociation for several years, and acted as airman of the Predator Control Committee. He was also active in the Tri-Town Sports-en Association of Vanderbilt, which is one the locals of the county association, be-des being a charter member of the C.U.V. unt Club.

He will be greatly missed by the sports-en of Fayette and surrounding counties.

---

Most of the 10,000 persons who attended e Farmers and Merchants Picnic at New ethlehem visited the unique and interest-g booth and wildlife exhibit arranged by e Red Bank Valley Sportsmen's Associa-on.

The booth was built of green poles roofed d sided with laurel and evergreen branches generous profusion. Inside the booth ere a number of very good mounted speci-ens of wildlife including pheasants, squirrels d a bear.

Outside the booth in cages were several ve animals and birds. A very pretty fawn tracted much attention as it strutted un-raid and actively around its enclosure. In cage on the other side of the booth were ree coons that seemed to be enjoying the picnic as much as anybody. In another cage were several young ringneck pheasants. Several hundred of these pheasants have been released in the area included in the Association.

Girl Scouts were at the booth receiving applications for membership in the R.B.V.S.A. This body now has more than 500 members, and is doing much to promote the interests of sportsmen in this section.

The mounted bear exhibited inside the booth has an interesting history. It was shot in 1940 by Floyd Marcy, who, with his twin brother was at Harry Evans' hunting camp in Forrest County. They were out about 20 miles from the camp when they came upon a bear. Instead of running, the bear charged the boys. Floyd drew his 32-caliber rifle, stepped aside and fired. The shot struck the bear in the left shoulder. Another shot lodged in bruin's brain. The animal weighed 325 pounds and provided many nice bear steaks for the youthful hunters and their friends.

---

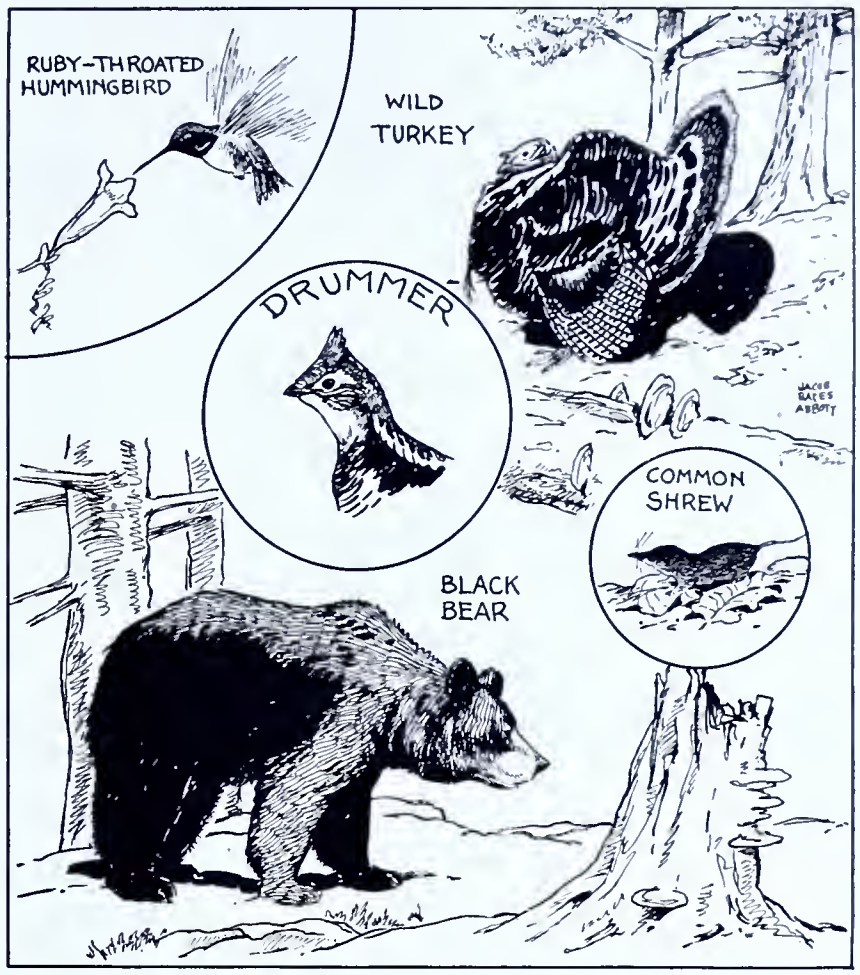
Old rooster meat is tender and juicy if, six weeks before killing, a tiny pellet of synthetic chemical diethylstilbestrol is inserted under the skin through a small cut; it causes fat to form in the muscles.

---

Flying insects have descended from wingless ancestors.

---

Golden eagles are believed to live to be one hundred years old.




## ANSWERS TO WHAT'S WRONG

1. Cowbirds do not build a nest nor feed their own or any other bird's young. They are the parasites of the bird world.
2. It is incorrect to say that a "bee gathers honey". A bee gathers nectar and manufactures honey.
3. Opossums have hairless tails.
4. A toad, when catching insects, shoots forth his long, sticky tongue to ensnare them.
5. Chimney swifts do not perch on wires.

---

## ANIMAL ODDITIES

Lehigh County's deer population was decreased by four when a doe was struck and badly injured in the upper end of the county at Pleasant Corner on Route 29.

Deputy Game Protector Clyde Kelchner of Neffs was notified of the accident, and put the animal out of its misery. When he dressed the doe to send the carcass to the Good Shepherd home in Allentown, he discovered that she would have become the mother of male triplets within the next two weeks.

It is very unusual for a deer to give birth to more than twins.

---

Butterflies that give off repulsive odors do so as a protection from birds and other enemies, and are found in both sexes; attractive scents are confined to the males.

# STATE GAME LANDS AFFORD PUBLIC HUNTING--USE THEM

| Serial Number | County | Acres | Towns From Which Game Lands Are Accessible |
|---|---|---|---|
| 12 | Bradford | 23,249 | Canton, Leroy, Wheelerville |
| 13 | Sullivan | 36,796 | Benton, Central, Nordmont |
| 14 | Cameron-Elk | 13,674 | Emporium, Howard Siding, Benezette |
| 24 | Forest-Clarion | 8,300 | Tionesta, Leeper, Marienville |
| 25 | Elk (First Purchase) | 6,302 | Ridgway, Johnsonburg, Wilcox |
| 26 | Bedford-Blair-Cambria | 9,229 | Portage, Beaverdale, Claysburg |
| 28 | Elk-Forest | 9,143 | Ridgway, Hallton |
| 29 | Warren | 9,831 | Clarendon, Sheffield, Warren |
| 30 | McKean | 11,572 | Emporium, Smethport, Betula |
| 31 | Jefferson | 3,901 | Punxsutawney, Brookville |
| 33 | Centre | 13,705 | Philipsburg, Port Matilda, Sandy Ridge |
| 34 | Clearfield-Elk | 8,800 | Medix Run, Frenchville, Karthaus |
| 35 | Susquehanna | 7,155 | Hallstead, Susquehanna, New Milford |
| 36 | Bradford | 12,795 | Monroe, Estella, New Albany |
| 37 | Tioga | 9,745 | Tioga, Crooked Creek |
| 38 | Monroe | 4,889 | Stroudsburg, Tannersville |
| 39 | Venango | 7,932 | Polk, Franklin, Clintonville |
| 40 | Carbon | 4,809 | White Haven, Blakeslee Corners |
| 41 | Bedford | 1,568 | Baker Summit, Woodbury |
| 42 | Westmoreland | 7,701 | New Florence, Ligonier, Seward |
| 43 | Chester-Berks | 1,138 | Elverson, Warwick |
| 44 | Elk-Jefferson | 24,531 | Ridgway, Brockway, Portland Mills |
| 45 | Venango-Clarion | 3,304 | Oil City, Van |
| 46 | Lancaster | 1,760 | Hopeland, Schafferstown, Brickerville |
| 47 | Venango | 2,060 | Henrys Bend, President, Oil City |
| 48 | Bedford | 7,249 | Buffalo Mills, Bedford |
| 49 | Bedford-Fulton | 5,132 | Amaranth, Buck Valley, Mattie |
| 50 | Somerset | 3,168 | Somerset, Berlin, Rockwood |
| 51 | Fayette | 7,668 | Dunbar, Chalk Hill, Ohiopyle |
| 52 | Lancaster-Berks | 1,470 | Morganstown, Bowmansville, Churchtown |
| 53 | Fulton | 4,552 | McConnellsville, Harrisonville |
| 54 | Jefferson-Elk | 20,712 | Brookville, Brockway, Portland Mills |
| 55 | Columbia | 2,231 | Berwick, Orangeville, Benton |
| 56 | Bucks | 1,682 | Ferndale, Upper Black Eddy |
| 57 | Wyoming | 33,141 | Noxen, Mehoopany, Tunkhannock |
| 58 | Columbia | 10,361 | Bloomsburg, Berwick, Catawissa |
| 59 | Potter-McKean | 6,656 | Port Allegany, Roulette, Shinglehouse |
| 60 | Centre | 4,028 | Tyrone, Houtzdale |
| 61 | McKean | 8,142 | Port Allegany, Smethport |
| 62 | McKean | 520 | Mt. Jewett, Ormsby |
| 63 | Clarion | 2,770 | Shippenville, Clarion, Knox |
| 64 | Potter | 7,236 | Galeton, Sunderlandville |
| 65 | Fulton | 3,783 | Emmaville, Needmore |
| 66 | Sullivan | 5,361 | Colley, Lopez, Mildred |
| 67 | Huntingdon | 1,850 | Broad Top City, Dudley, Coalmont |
| 68 | Lycoming | 3,034 | Slate Run, Cedar Run, Lloyd |
| 69 | Crawford | 3,416 | Guys Mills, Townville, Black Ash |
| 70 | Wayne-Susquehanna | 5,848 | Starrucca, Scott Center, Stevens Point |
| 71 | Huntingdon | 4,780 | Mt. Union, Mapleton Depot |
| 72 | Clarion | 2,019 | Clarion, Shippenville |
| 73 | Bedford-Blair-Huntingdon | 15,355 | Everett, Saxton, Williamsburg |
| 74 | Clarion-Jefferson | 6,043 | Clarion, Strattonville, Sigel |
| 75 | Lycoming | 24,142 | English Center, Brookside, Waterville |
| 76 | Franklin | 3,813 | Upper Strasburg, Roxbury, Spring Run |
| 77 | Clearfield | 3,038 | DuBois, Falls Creek |
| 78 | Clearfield | 721 | Bigler, Kylertown |
| 79 | Cambria | 2,158 | Vintondale, Twin Rocks |
| 80 | Lebanon-Berks-Schuylkill | 7,278 | Pine Grove, Bethel, Lickdale |
| 81 | Huntingdon | 3,408 | Shade Gap, Maddenville, Fort Littleton |
| 82 | Somerset | 1,348 | Sandpatch, Glenco, Meyersdale |
| 83 | York | 761 | York Furnace, Airville, Chanceford |
| 84 | Northumberland- Schuylkill | 7,808 | Herndon, Trevorton, Gowen City |
| 85 | Crawford | 922 | Cambridge Springs, Seagertown |
| 86 | Warren | 13,820 | Tidioute, Pittsfield, Garland |
| 87 | Clearfield | 1,124 | Grampian, Mahaffey, McGees Mills |
| 88 | Perry-Juniata | 6,431 | Ickesburg, Honey Grove, Saville |
| 89 | Clinton | 10,571 | Lock Haven, Farrandsville Haneyville |
| 90 | Clearfield | 3,840 | Clearfield, Goshen |
| 91 | Lackawanna-Luzerne | 10,513 | Moosic, Thornhurst, Wilkes-Barre |
| 92 | Centre | 4,955 | Howard, Lock Haven, Bellefonte |
| 93 | Clearfield | 4,717 | Penfield, DuBois, Sabula |
| 94 | Clearfield | 2,108 | Shawville, Lecontes Mills |
| 95 | Butler | 2,235 | Annandale, Eau Claire, Slippery Rock |
| 96 | Venango | 3,434 | Diamond, Dempseytown, Cooperstown |
| 97 | Bedford | 5,927 | Rainsburg, Everett, Chaneyville |
| 98 | Clearfield | 1,180 | Clearfield, West Decatur, Bigler |
| 99 | Huntingdon | 2,922 | Mount Union, Saltillo, Three Springs |
| 100 | Centre | 3,776 | Snow Shoe, Karthaus, Moshannon |
| 101 | Erie-Crawford | 3,372 | Albion, Beaver Center, Tracy |
| 102 | Erie | 325 | Union City, Corry |
| 103 | Centre | 1,832 | Milesburg, Snow Shoe |
| 104 | Bedford-Somerset | 3,704 | Hyndman, Fairhope |
| 105 | Armstrong | 1,303 | Bradys Bend, East Brady, Kaylor |
| 106 | Berks-Schuylkill | 3,704 | Eckville, Drehersville, Wanamakers |
| 107 | Juniata-Mifflin | 3,870 | Mifflintown, Wagner, Maitland |
| 108 | Cambria | 8,975 | St. Lawrence, Fallen Timber Flinton |
| 109 | Erie | 1,442 | Erie, Waterford, Goddard |
| 110 | Berks-Schuylkill | 7,755 | Shartlesville, Strausstown, Summit Station |
| 111 | Somerset-Fayette | 6,811 | Confluence, Ursina, Ohiopyle |
| 112 | Huntingdon | 1,298 | Huntingdon, Union Church Mill Creek |
| 113 | Mifflin | 534 | McVeytown, Strodes Mills, Lewistown |
| 114 | Lycoming | 2,311 | Salladasburg, Brookside, Whitepine |
| 115 | Montour-Northumberland | 1,243 | Mooresburg, Chulasky, Danville |
| 116 | Pike | 3,768 | Greeley, Shohola, Lackawaxen |
| 117 | Washington | 2,976 | Burgettstown, Florence |
| 118 | Huntingdon-Blair | 4,326 | Huntingdon, Williamsburg Marklesburg |
| 119 | Luzerne | 7,129 | Bear Creek, White Haven Mountain Top |
| 120 | Clearfield-Cambria | 3,081 | Irvona, Westover |
| 121 | Huntingdon | 1,524 | Three Springs, Robertsdale Broad Top City |
| 122 | Crawford | 1,709 | Townville, Hydetown, Tryonville |
| 123 | Bradford | 721 | Snedekerville, Checkerville Gillette |
| 124 | Franklin-Fulton | 5,387 | McConnellsburg, Webster Mills Cito |
| 125 | Lycoming | 742 | Ralston, Bodine |
| 126 | Lycoming | 592 | Du Boistown, Williamsport |
| 127 | Monroe | 7,332 | Pocono Lake, Blakeslee, Pocono Pines |
| 128 | Fulton | 1,569 | Amaranth, Dott, Warfordsburg |
| 129 | Carbon-Monroe | 2,983 | Albrightsville, Blakeslee Corners White Haven |
| 130 | Mercer | 946 | Sandy Lake, Stoneboro, Hendersonville |
| 131 | Huntingdon | 187 | Tyrone, Birmingham |
| 132 | Schuylkill | 1,247 | Hegins, Haas |
| 133 | Lycoming | 2,008 | Bodines, Trout Run, Calvert |
| 134 | Lycoming-Sullivan | 6,128 | Hillsgrove, Barbours, Proctor |
| 135 | Lackawanna | 2,808 | Thornhurst, Gouldsboro, Daleville |
| 136 | Lancaster | 91 | Kirkwood, Fairmount, Quarryville |
| 137 | Armstrong | 1,114 | New Bethlehem, Distant |
| 138 | Fayette | 2,418 | Fairchance, Oliphant Furnace |
| 139 | Bucks | 164 | Perkasie, Quakertown, Sellersville |
| 140 | Susquehanna | 1,169 | Middletown Center, Carmauli Lake |
| 141 | Carbon | 2,005 | Christmas, Albrightsville, Mauch Chunk |
| 142 | Bradford | 369 | New Albany, New Era |
| 143 | Warren | 7,622 | Garland, Pittsfield, Wrightsville |
| 144 | Crawford | 326 | Spartansburg, Corry |
| 145 | Lebanon | 2,970 | Mt. Gretna, Colebrook, Lawn |
| 146 | Crawford | 496 | New Richmond, Teepleville |
| 147 | Blair | 4,398 | Hollidaysburg, Roaring Spring Frankstown |
| 148 | Lawrence-Beaver | 369 | Wampum, Elwood City, Eno Valley |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | Luzerne | 1,127 | White Haven, Weatherly |
| 0 | Lawrence | 505 | Pulaski, New Wilmington, New Bedford |
| 1 | Lawrence | 719 | Plaingrove, North Liberty |
| 2 | Crawford | 419 | Crossingville, Edinboro |
| 3 | Indiana | 783 | Robinson, Bolivar, Blairsville |
| 4 | Erie | 1,166 | Wattsburg, Five Points, Corry |
| 5 | Erie | 224 | Lowville, Wattsburg, Pleasant Lake |
| 6 | Lancaster | 1,986 | Cornwall, Brickerville, Estonville |
| 7 | Bucks | 1,546 | Bursonville, Springtown, Bucksville |
| 8 | Cambria | 1,611 | Blandburg, Glasgow, Mountaindale |
| 9 | Wayne | 7,331 | Honesdale, Cold Spring, Tanners Falls |
| 0 | Schuylkill | 245 | Pine Grove, Summit Station |
| 1 | Erie | 235 | Waterford, West Greene, Phillipsville |
| 2 | Erie | 206 | Wattsburg, Arbuckle |
| 3 | Erie | 183 | North East, Colt Station |
| 4 | Butler | 399 | East Butler, Carbon Center, Lucasville |
| 5 | Northumberland | 1,105 | Trevorton, Shamokin |
| 6 | Blair | 4,291 | Canoe Creek, Hollidaysburg, Yellow Springs |
| 7 | Erie | 569 | Wattsburg, Lowville |
| 8 | Northampton | 1,401 | Danielsville, Point Phillips, Wind Gap |
| 9 | Cumberland | 702 | Newville, Heberlig, Greensprings |
| 0 | Perry-Cumberland | 839 | Marysville, Wertzville, Keystone |
| 1 | Juniata-Perry | 942 | Thompsontown, Millerstown, Donnallys Mills |
| 2 | Bradford | 722 | Wilmot, Wyalusing |
| 3 | Beaver | 1,063 | Midland, Glasgow, Esther |
| 4 | Indiana | 3,053 | Glen Campbell, Rossiter, McGees Mills |
| 5 | Susquehanna | 736 | Hallstead, New Milford |
| 6 | Centre | 5,812 | State College, Port Matilda, Pine Grove Mills |
| 7 | Allegheny | 66 | Pittsburgh, Sharpsburg, Allison Park |
| 8 | Lawrence | 164 | New Castle, Skidmore, Eastbrook |
| 179 | Greene | 1,068 | Holbrook, New Freeport, Aleppo |
| 180 | Pike | 1,406 | Lords Valley, Blooming Grove |
| 181 | York | 563 | Airville, Kyleville, York |
| 182 | Berks | 270 | Kutztown, Krumsville, Virginville |
| 183 | Pike | 2,778 | Hawley, Blooming Grove |
| 184 | Cambria | 2,179 | Ashville, Coupon, Dean |
| 185 | Indiana | 574 | Commodore, Cherry Tree |
| 186 | Monroe | 967 | Stroudsburg, McMichaels, Brodheadsville |
| 187 | Luzerne | 6,822 | Wilkes-Barre, White Haven, Mountain Top |
| 188 | Snyder | 1,139 | Beavertown, Troxelville |
| 189 | Beaver | 322 | Clinton |
| 190 | Erie | 327 | Waterford, Wattsburg, Union City |
| 191 | Erie | 533 | Colt Station, Townville |
| 192 | Erie | 321 | Edinboro, Waterford |
| 193 | Union | 296 | Winfield, New Berlin |
| 194 | Snyder | 622 | Meiserville |
| 195 | Jefferson | 1,035 | Punxsutawney, Big Run |
| 196 | Bucks | 259 | Perkasie, Trumbauersville, Tylersport |
| 197 | Warren | 1,028 | Columbus, Corry, Bear Lake |
| 198 | Blair-Cambria | 2,468 | Duncanville, Cresson, Lilly |
| 199 | Crawford | 704 | Riceville, Centerville, Lincolnville |
| 200 | Crawford | 154 | New Richmond, Townville |
| 201 | Union | 269 | Mifflinburg |
| 202 | Crawford | 507 | Union City, Tillotson, Lincolnville |
| 203 | Allegheny | 1,246 | Wexford, Warrendale, Bradford Woods |
| 204 | Potter | 4,306 | Roulette, Oswayo, Shingle House |
| 205 | Lehigh | 1,248 | Schnecksville, Clauseville, Lyon Valley |
| 206 | Luzerne | 797 | Kingston, Red Rock |
| 207 | Luzerne | 833 | Wilkes-Barre, Mountain Top |
| 208 | Tioga | 7,075 | Wellsboro, Galeton, Westfield |
| 209 | Pike | 4,162 | Matamoras, Shohola |
| 210 | Dauphin | 10,984 | Lykens, Tower City, Dauphin |
| 211 | Dauphin-Lebanon | 29,058 | Dauphin, Indiantown Gap |
| 188 | Unit blocks of State Game Lands TOTAL | 810,674 | Acres |

# TOE AND HEEL

**By Orville Porterfield**

Dog owners know that experts are still ıdecided about "how does a trail-finding ›g know in which direction the game has aveled?"

This canine twister has no doubt detained any a woman's mate until she tossed with ıxiety, knowing not that the true, brave llow merely argued his viewpoint over idnight oil at the local spotsman's club.

One night in a secluded hunting camp hile my pointer dozed at our feet, Larry atton and Hep Carver began a discussion : the various trail theories.

"In my opinion," said Larry, "when a dog ıds a cold trail, he simply depends on inınct to determine which direction to take. 's either that or . . ."

"Folderol and pish-posh!" Hep blurted the ıterruption, I thought a bit rudely even ›r him. "I'm afeared you're fishin' the rong puddle, Bud," he said, with an imatient flourish.

Hep, the veteran guide and woodsman, ared at the rough floor as if Larry's suggeson had given his wisdom a major insult. o me it was understandable that he often ›t peeved when younger hunters tried to ›ttle outdoor perplexities such as this trail uzzle. But this was Larry's first visit to ›ep's camp. He would soon learn, like I ad years back, to pay high respect to the ıdgment of this guide who really did know is Nature.

Experience had taught me that whenever ›ep drooped forward while studying his ıbin floor he was planning to come forth erbally with some woodsy logic. Presently e straightened. His customary good humor ad returned.

"Truth of the matter is, boys," he began, l've got this here which-way-trail business ll figgered out in my head! But they's so many crazy ideas on the loose these days that I just keep my theory secret."

He paused stubbornly. And I knew what to do about that. 'We're achin' to hear your beliefs, Hep, ol' pal. And for one, I'm bettin' you've really got something brainy."

By this time he had removed his boots and was peeling off the last sock. "Afore I even start demonstratin'," he said, "you younguns will have to admit that wild birds and animals are nigh smart as humings and a heap like 'em in ways. And a good dog may be more intelligent than either.

Be sure you are all set for opening day—gun checked, etc.

"No half-way stuff for me," he explained as he stepped here and there barefooted. "When I explain something, I go at it whole hog. Now let's just imagine, fellers, that I'm a wise old fox on his night run. Say, I m racing through the bresh and then over some hard dry windswept ground. Notice how my toes press harder than my heels? Even on rock the front part of my track will likely hold scent longer and stronger than the hind part. Everybody knows of course that toes give out a heap worse odors than heels, anyway."

Hep glanced at Larry and me for confirmation just as my pointer reared his head to test the air currents.

"For my money, you're drivin' nails," I said.

"Do proceed!" Larry urged.

Thus encouraged Hep contorted himself to simulate an animal taking off through the tall and uncut. "We'll say a fox ran along here about an hour ago and now a hound finds his trail," he continued. "If the hound is onto his stuff, you'll see him hesitate over the first tracks he's found. He'll poke into each footprint and move his sharp nose back and forth trying, I think, to figure which end is the toe—or, the direction he's to go. No wonder it's hard for a dog to decide on direction on a real cold trail when there's no longer any scent in the heels of the tracks. Dogs have to 'stinguish between heel and toe scent. Otherwise they may run a direction opposite the one they should run—till the spoor gets too old to handle. Animals or birds—it's all the same. Unless both heel and toe scent can still be found in a track, no dog can be certain which way the game has gone." *(Continued on next page)*

Hep had spoken his piece, and I knew it when he fired up his pipe. "Well, fellers, there's my theory. The only one that can't be busted open by calm reasonin'. What do you think of it?" he asked.

Larry and I had moved over near the cabin door which stood ajar. The night air of late autumn was bracing. Respectfully, I still faced Hep. "Seems to me you really have a good theory there, and I'd just like to know what percentage of dog owners think the same," I commented.

"Yes, you sure have offered a stout argument," Larry added. "And even in defeat, you would still be strong."

---

RETRIEVER GUN DOGS by William F. Brown. A. S. Barnes & Co., 67 West 44th Street, New York 18, N. Y. $3.00.

The popularity of the retriever breed of dogs, both in the duck blind and in the field, has grown by leaps and bounds in recent years. Through specialized training their range of usefulness has been greatly extended, so much so, in fact, that many Sportsmen employ a retriever as an all-around dog.

This book gives step-by-step lessons in the training of retrievers and discusses their selection and care, the various breed standards, history and general background of this great group of dogs. There is a valuable section on outstanding retriever performers and dogs that have made retriever history.

THE COUNTRY COOK BOOK by Cora, Rose and Bob Brown. A. S. Barnes & Co., Publishers, 67 West 44th St., New York 18, N. Y. $1.50.

This is more than just a cook book. Starting with an interesting article on country hospitality, it explains how to make delicious pickle relishes, mushroom dishes, how to flavor with herbs and nuts and how to prepare game and fish. It gives recipes for cooking vegetables, soups, stews, breads and other dishes that grace the country table.

Besides giving delicious recipes, this valuable little book is a practical guide to canning and preserving food for the home, farm and camp as well as an instructional manual for the preparation of many of the fancy desserts and salads with which the country table abounds.

Arnim Reeves of Galeton sent in this interesting photo of an angry possum which was chased up a tree by a dog.

# OFFICIAL 1945 OPEN SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS

**(All Shooting Hours Based on Eastern Standard Time)**

Open season includes both dates given, Sundays excepted for game. **On November 1 no hunting of any kind before 9 A. M.** With this exception, shooting hours daily are 7 A. M. to 5 P. M., except from July 1 to September 30 inclusive, 6 A. M. to 7:30 P. M. Raccoons may be hunted at night, with a noon-to-noon daily limit.

| UPLAND GAME (Small game possession limit two days' bag) | Bag Limits Day | Bag Limits Season | Seasons Open | Seasons Close |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ruffed Grouse | 2 | 8 | Nov. 1 | Nov. 30 |
| Quail, Bobwhite | 4 | 12 | | |
| Hungarian Partridges | 2 | 8 | | |
| Wild Turkeys (See 7 counties closed)* | 1 | 1 | | |
| Ringneck Pheasants, males only | 2 | 8 | | |
| Rabbits, Cottontail | 4 | 20 | | |
| Squirrels, Gray, Black and Fox | 6 | 24 | | |
| Squirrels, Red | Unlimited | | Nov. 1 | Sept. 30, 1946 |
| Grackles (commonly called Blackbirds) | Unprotected | | until September 30, 1946 | |
| Hares (Snowshoe Rabbits) | 2 | 6 | Dec. 17 | Jan. 1, 1946 |
| Raccoons, by individual or hunting party* | 4 | 20 | Oct. 22 | Feb. 1, 1946 |
| Raccoons, by trapping (Statewide)* | | | Nov. 1 | Feb. 1, 1946 |
| Woodchucks (Groundhogs) | Unlimited | | July 1 | Sept. 30 |
| Bear, over one year old, by individual | 1 | 1 | Nov. 26 | Nov. 29 |
| Bear, as above, by hunting party of three or more | 2 | 2 | | |
| Deer, male with two or more points to one antler (Statewide), also antlerless deer in that part of southeastern Pennsylvania designated* | 1 | 1 | Dec. 1 | Dec. 15 |
| Deer, as above, by hunting party of six or more | 6 | 6 | | |

**NO OPEN SEASON—Sharp-tailed Grouse, Cub Bears and Elk.**

**FUR-BEARERS—(See note under Special Regulations)***

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minks, Skunks and Otters* | Unlimited | Nov. 1 | Feb. 1, 1946 |
| Muskrats (By traps only)* | Unlimited | Dec. 1 | Feb. 1, 1946 |
| Beavers (By traps only)* | 2 | Feb. 15 | Mar. 1, 1946 |
| Opossums | Unprotected | until September 30, 1946 | |

***SPECIAL REGULATIONS**

**Turkeys—Counties of Clarion, Forest, Jefferson, McKean, Snyder, Tioga and Warren closed.**

**Raccoon Hunting**—The season begins at noon on the opening date, and ends at same hour on the closing date.

**Raccoon Trapping**—Traps not to be placed before 9 A. M., on the opening date (see instructions below concerning lifting traps on closing date).

**Deer, Southeastern Pennsylvania, Combined Season**—Both sexes, spike bucks excepted, may be killed in the counties of Lancaster, Chester, Montgomery, Delaware, Philadelphia and Bucks, also those parts of Dauphin, Lebanon, Berks, Lehigh and Northampton Counties lying south of U. S. Highway Route No. 22, during the regular season without special permits. A hunter may kill only one deer and the regular hunting party limit applies.

**Beavers**—Statewide trapping permitted, except where dams are posted by Commission. **Non-Residents may not trap beavers.** One person may set, tend or operate 10 traps only. **Traps must not be placed closer than 15 feet from the waterline on any established beaver house.** Trappers are required to keep tags above ice or waterline to facilitate identification without disturbing traps. **Pelts must be tagged within 10 days after season, and may not be sold or otherwise disposed of until properly tagged. Present them to Protector in District or County where trapped.**

**Trapping**—Traps for fur-bearers and raccoons not to be placed before 9 A. M. on Nov. 1 or before 7 A. M. on any later opening date for trapping. The season on the last date indicated for trapping closes at 12 o'clock noon to permit removal of animals caught on the last night of the season and lifting traps by daylight.

**Snares—No counties open to use of snares.**

**MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS—FEDERAL SEASONS**

| | Daily Limits | 1945 Open Seasons (Sundays Excepted) |
|---|---|---|
| Rails and Gallinules (except Sora and Coots), combined kinds | 15 | Sept. 1-Nov. 30 |
| Sora | 25 | |
| Coots | 25 | Oct. 13-Dec. 31 |
| Wild Duck, except American and Redbreasted Mergansers (See Exceptions)* | 10* | |
| American and Redbreasted Mergansers | 25 | |
| Wild Geese and Brant | 2* | |
| Woodcock | 4 | Oct. 10-Oct. 24 |
| Doves | 10 | Nov. 1-Nov. 30 |

*Exceptions—The regular daily duck limit of 10 shall not include more than one (1) Wood Duck. In addition to the daily limit for Geese or Brant, 4 Blue Geese and Snow Geese (either singly or in the aggregate), may be taken. **Possession Limit:** Ducks, Geese, Brant and Woodcock, twice the daily bag (except on opening day), but only one (1) Wood Duck. No possession limit after first day on American and Redbreasted Mergansers. Other migratory game birds, daily bag only. Possession 90 days after season.

No Open Season—Wilson's Snipe (Jacksnipe), Ross's Geese and Swans.

Shooting Hours—(Eastern War Time). All migratory game birds: From beginning of respective open reasons to October 31 inclusive, one-half hour before sunrise to sunset; November 1, 9 A. M. to 5 P. M.; November 2 to end of respective seasons 7 A. M. to 5 P. M. (unless sunset occurs earlier, when Federal sunset regulation automatically applies). Exception: On the open waters of Lake Erie and the open tidal waters of the Delaware River lying within the Commonwealth from Trenton Falls to the Delaware State line not including inland tidal water), when shooting from boats or blinds at least 100 yards from shore, the Federal one-half hour before sunrise to sunset regulation applies throughout the waterfowl season, except on November 1, when shooting before 9 A. M. is unlawful.

# PICTORIAL

Top—left to right: Members of the Blaine Hill Sportsmen's Association with food for wildlife which they are about to distribute. Marlin Johns. hur Keister, Marlin and Ray Geist of upper Dauphin County with their fox catch of 1943. Ex-Senator G. Harold Watkins with a couple of young tontails found on his estate in Schuylkill County, which is always open to public shooting.

Center—left to right: Young foxes dug out of their den in Schuylkill County shared the same bed and board with a rooster during their temporary prisonment. Richard Blair, Pottstown, with large rattlesnake killed in Centre County; it had 11 rattles and a button. Two successful trappers h their bag of foxes, 'coons, minks, oppossums and skunks taken last fall. Linn Pierce, Huntzburg, Ohio, with 7-point buck killed in Clarion unty in 1944. Nimrod Pierce is 89 years old.

Bottom—left to right: A nice 6-point, 165 pounder killed in Franklin County by Grant Keefer of Sylvan. Top: James Smith, left, R. D. 4, wport, with 9-point, 175 pounder killed in Perry County last year. Bottom: Earl W. Hill of Sunbury with 8-point, 200 pound hog-dressed buck led in Northumberland County; it had a 27 inch spread. Top: A group of enthusiastic sportsmen from Lancaster County all set for a day's hunting. ttom: Oliver Sabatini of Bethlehem with 6-pointer bagged in Pike County. Roy M. Bitler, Danville, with large trophy bagged in Montour unty.

# Happy Hunting!

Carry your gun down and on safety. Never point a gun — either on purpose or accidentally — at anything you do not wish to shoot. Be sure of your target before you pull the trigger. Handle every gun as if it were loaded.

When crossing fences, let one member of the party climb over first without a gun. Hand all guns over to him, being sure to "break" the breech before handing over. Be sure barrel and action are clear of obstruction before shooting.

Wear something bright — preferably red — which will stand out in wooded areas. Never wear white for hunting. Never stand up in a boat to shoot. Allow only one hunter to shoot from boat at a time. Never shoot at hard, flat surfaces such as rocks, or at the surface of the water.

Never carry loaded guns in your car. Never look down the muzzle of your gun. Avoid horseplay while handling guns and never mix alcohol and gun powder. Teach children proper respect for firearms. Such simple precautions as these will make for happy hunting.

NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL

Pennsylvania State Library
Documents Section

# PENNSYLVANIA Game News

November 1945 Ten Cents

# PENNSYLVANIA GAME NEWS

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION, HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

EDWARD MARTIN, GOVERNOR

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

ROSS L. LEFFLER, *President* .....Pittsburgh
ROBERT LAMBERTON, *Vice-President* .....Franklin
COL. NICHOLAS BIDDLE .....Bethayres
G. I. PHILLIPS .....Alexandria
HAROLD MOLTZ .....Williamsport
DR. H. E. KILGUS .....Brockway
JOHN C. HERMAN .....Dauphin
B. K. WILLIAMS .....East Stroudsburg

Administrative Office

SETH GORDON .....*Executive Director*
R. A. MCCACHRAN .....*Assistant Director*

DIVISION OF LANDS

W. Gard. Conklin .....*Chief*

DIVISION OF ACCOUNTING & BUDGET

N. E. Slaybaugh .....*Comptroller*

DIVISION OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

Leo A. Luttringer, Jr. .....*Chief*
*Editor*, PENNSYLVANIA GAME NEWS

TRAINING

W. M. Cramer .....*Supt. Training School*

Bureau of Field Operations

DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

W. C. Shaffer .....*Chief*

DIVISION OF LAND MANAGEMENT

James N. Morton .....*Chief*

DIVISION OF RESEARCH
(Vacancy)

PROPAGATION & DISTRIBUTION

Earl S. Greenwood .....*Acting*

FIELD DIVISION SUPERVISORS

DIVISION "A"—M. J. Golden, 602 Penn Ave., West Reading, Pa.
Berks, Bucks, Chester, Dauphin, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, York.

DIVISION "B"—Jay C. Gilford, Wyoming Ave. and Welles St., Forty Fort, Pa.
Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming.

DIVISION "C"—Thomas F. Bell, 352 E. 3rd St., Williamsport, Pa.
Bradford, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga, Union.

DIVISION "D"—William J. Davis, 327 Penn St., Huntingdon, Pa.
Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry.

DIVISION "E"—M. E. Sherman, 1 E. Du Bois Ave., Du Bois, Pa.
Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, Potter.

DIVISION "F"—Hayes T. Englert, 14 W. 1st St., 2d Floor, S. S. Oil City, Pa.
Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, Warren.

DIVISION "G"—Rollin Heffelfinger, 405 Main Street, 2d Floor, McClellan Bldg., Irwin, Pa.
Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, Westmoreland.

## HOW TO SUBSCRIBE

RATES—$0.50 per year to residents of Pennsylvania, regardless of address. $1.00 per year for Non-Residents of Pennsylvania. (Out-of-State, District of Columbia, Canadian or Foreign.) Club rates are available to organizations presenting 10 or more subscriptions in a single order. Remittances by check or money order to be made payable to the Department of Revenue, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. CASH FORWARDED AT SENDER'S RISK. STAMPS NOT ACCEPTED. Your local Game Protector, County Treasurer or other Hunting License Issuing Agent will take your subscription; or you may forward it direct to the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.

Please report all changes of address promptly, sending both your old and new addresses.

Please address *all* communications to the Editorial Office.

Publication office, Cameron and Kelker Sts., Harrisburg, Pa.

Executive and editorial office, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.

Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, under Act of March 3, 1879.

Permission to reprint will be granted provided proper credit is given.

Mailed in conformity with P.O.D. Order No. 19687.

VOL. XVI, NO. 8

# EDITORIAL

November, 1945

IN THIS ISSUE

How to Run a Deer Camp

★

This Predator Legend
By Jacob Bates Abbott

★

More Game and Better Hunting
By Charles K. Fox

★

The 1944 Game Harvest

★

Transactions of the Commission's Meeting, Sept. 22, 1945

★

Public Information Recommendations

★

Mountain Music

★

Well, What's Wrong?

★

Cover—Gray Fox and Wild Turkey
By Jacob Bates Abbott

## 100,000 RABBITS

THE Game Commission is expanding its rabbit trapping and transfer program as much as possible. A goal of 100,000 cottontail rabbits a year has been mentioned. While this may seem a rather high objective it is believed that with proper cooperation on the part of sportsmen, farmers, boy scouts, game protectors and all interested parties, the attainment of this goal is not impossible. Remember more than 40,000 rabbits were trapped and transferred to open hunting grounds last winter.

It is not too early to begin making plans for extensive rabbit trapping this winter. Game protectors have already been instructed to thoroughly check their traps, crates and other necessary equipment so they will be fully prepared to start operations immediately after the close of the small game season on November 30.

If any of the trapping agents previously appointed by the Commission have trapping equipment now in their possession, it should be reported to the nearest game protector. Should this equipment be in need of repairs or painting, the game protector will take immediate steps to put it into condition for use when the program again gets under way.

To assist in the program, the Commission appoints agents to trap rabbits on the following basis:

Class "A" permits are issued to sportsmen, deputy game protectors and other persons who are willing to trap game voluntarily and to whom no compensation is made.

Class "B" permits are issued to sportsmen, deputy game protectors, Boy Scouts, Future Farmers of America and other youth groups to trap rabbits at the rate of fifty cents (50c) per head if the Commission's traps are used, and sixty cents (60c) per head if such groups construct their own traps.

If any sportsmen or other individuals are interested, they are urged to apply at once for further information to their local game protector, through whom these agents are appointed. The game protector will instruct agents in methods of rabbit trapping, supply the traps, arrange for the collection of trapped rabbits and the maintenance of necessary records so that the proper reports of trapping activities can be made by the agent to the officer. Trapped rabbits are usually released in the district in which they are taken, provided they can be removed a sufficient distance to avoid the possibility of the animals returning to their original habitat.

A contractor is now busily engaged in constructing 5,000 rabbit traps and 500 carrying crates, which should be available for the coming trapping season. These traps and crates, in addition to the thousands already in possession of game protectors, should be sufficient to supply this winter's needs.

Trapping agents made a commendable record last year when more than 40,000 cottontails were trapped and transferred to open hunting grounds. This excellent record was set despite the fact that operations were carried on with reduced personnel, which was at its lowest ebb because of the absence of many young men in the armed forces. Many of these veterans, who were experienced trapping agents, are returning from war service, thus making a valuable contribution to the force of agents upon whom the Commission shall depend for increased rabbit trapping operations this winter. In addition, new agents who required instructions in the past several winters will now profit by their experience to the extent that increased success in the trapping and removal of rabbits to open hunting territory can reasonably be expected in 1945-46.

Game protectors who have been in military service are being discharged weekly and are being restored to their former positions just as rapidly as they offer themselves for duty. Many of these veterans are experienced in game trapping, and their help, with that of other trappers of wild game who are gradually returning from military duty, should be of substantial assistance in expanding the program.

Regardless of the fact that thousands of rabbits have already been trapped and removed from restricted areas, there undoubtedly are tens of thousands native cottontails remaining in areas closed to hunting, such as cities, boroughs, parks, vegetable gardens, institutional grounds, water sheds, tree nurseries and young orchards. Most of these areas offer excellent opportunities for removing rabbits to open hunting grounds.

Native rabbit stock is much more preferable to rabbits imported from western states. All Pennsylvania sportsmen should get solidly behind the rabbit transfer program, as it offers excellent possibilities for better rabbit hunting in every section of the Commonwealth.

*Editor's Note—We have placed the above, which is obviously not editorial, on this page because of its tremendous importance. Get behind the live game trapping program and watch your game bag increase annually.*

Long Hollow, in the Hammersly section of Potter County, from a paintng by Art Henze, Pittsburgh.

# HOW TO RUN A DEER CAMP

THE other day Donald M. McNeil, Traffic Manager of the City of Pittsburgh, sent us the rules and regulations of the Splash Dam Camp which are so complete as to detail that we thought we'd pass them along.

Prior to last year the camp paid $1.00 per day for lodging, but the owner of the hunting lodge they used requested them to rent it outright last season, which they did. It cost $125, which included wood and coal for the fires, furniture, beds and bedclothing.

As a result, 13 of the members were assessed $10.00 to defray rental expenses, while those in the service and the Junior members were charged $1.00 for each day they remained in camp.

In addition $10.00 per man was assessed for food, with the understanding that all monies left over would be refunded, pro-rated according to the number of days in camp. The chores prepared by the stewards, with their brief descriptions follow. Each man was respectfully requested to perform his chores faithfully.

Director of the Hunt—A Director of Hunt was appointed each day. His responsibilities were to plan and direct the hunting activities of the camp for that day with authority to appoint his own assistant to aid in spacing the drivers and watchers. All members of the party were requested to cooperate in the manner in which he planned the hunt. However, if any member desired to hunt in a different manner, he was instructed to so notify the Director prior to the start of the hunt so that plans could be made accordingly.

Chef—A Chef was appointed to cook each meal, the menus being furnished him by a Food Committee. He had to have breakfast ready for serving at 6:45 A.M., dinner not later than 6:30 P.M. He was in complete charge of the kitchen, and all other members except the Assistant Chef were requested not to use the kitchen.

Assistant Chef—The Assistant Chef's duties were simply to cooperate with and assist the Chef during the preparation of the meal.

Lunch Man—The Lunch Man was charged with the preparation of lunches for all members of the party for a particular day. He had all lunches prepared as outlined by the Food Committee ready for distribution to other members of the party not later than 7:15 A.M. Members were requested prior to their retiring the evening before to indicate, on forms provided, their desires for lunch the following day to avoid delays in the preparation thereof.

Orderly—An Orderly was assigned each day to make beds, and to sweep and clean the first and second floors of the building immediately following breakfast. The members were requested, after breakfast, to vacate the bedroom quarters as soon as possible, so he could perform his duties promptly. On days when the camp was fully occupied, one man was assigned to the first floor and one to the second floor.

Kitchen Police—Two K. P.'s were assigned to duty at the same time. They were charged with the removal of dishes immediately following the meal and the washing of all pots, pans and dishes.

Water Man—The duty of this individual was to keep water adequately supplied in the hunting lodge at *all* times.

Wood Chopper—This man was charged with chopping whatever wood was necessary, keeping an adequate supply in the kitchen and the dining room, and seeing to it that the fire was burning in the dining room constantly so the camp was heated comfortably.

Lamp Man—The Lamp Man was charged with keeping the lamps in proper operating condition. He had to keep them adequately filled with oil, cleaned, etc. If the camp was fortunate in having an electric power generator to furnish light, he was expected to see that this machine was in good operating condition and well supplied with fuel and oil.

Marketer—The duties of this man were to do whatever shopping was necessary for the provisions needed in camp. The requisitions for provisions and the money for purchasing them was furnished by the Food Committee.

The group was in camp eight days and if they didn't kill a deer, they certainly didn't starve judging from the following menu. And we publish it with misgivings, knowing full well that certain wives of certain members will be appalled at the culinary tastes of their men-folks when they are "on the loose." This is particularly true of breakfast. But that's the outdoors for you. And its tops provided a fellow don't underestimate his physical propensities and try to beat everyone else to the top of the mountain afterward. A middle-aged man just can't do it and be comfortable—if he lives through it.

*Illustration by Jacob Bates Abbott*

Thursday—Breakfast consisted of tomato juice, cold cereal, ham and eggs and the old standbys included in every breakfast, toast and beverage. Lunch was the same every day, namely two sandwiches, an apple and cookies to each man. For dinner the men had loin chops, boiled potatoes, corn, pie, and the inevitable beverage.

Friday—Breakfast—Grapefruit juice, hot cereal, hotcakes and sausage. Dinner—Pork roast (spare ribs and fish), sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, green beans, cake.

Saturday—Breakfast — tomato juice, cold cereal, bacon and eggs. Dinner—Steak, fried potatoes, peas, pie.

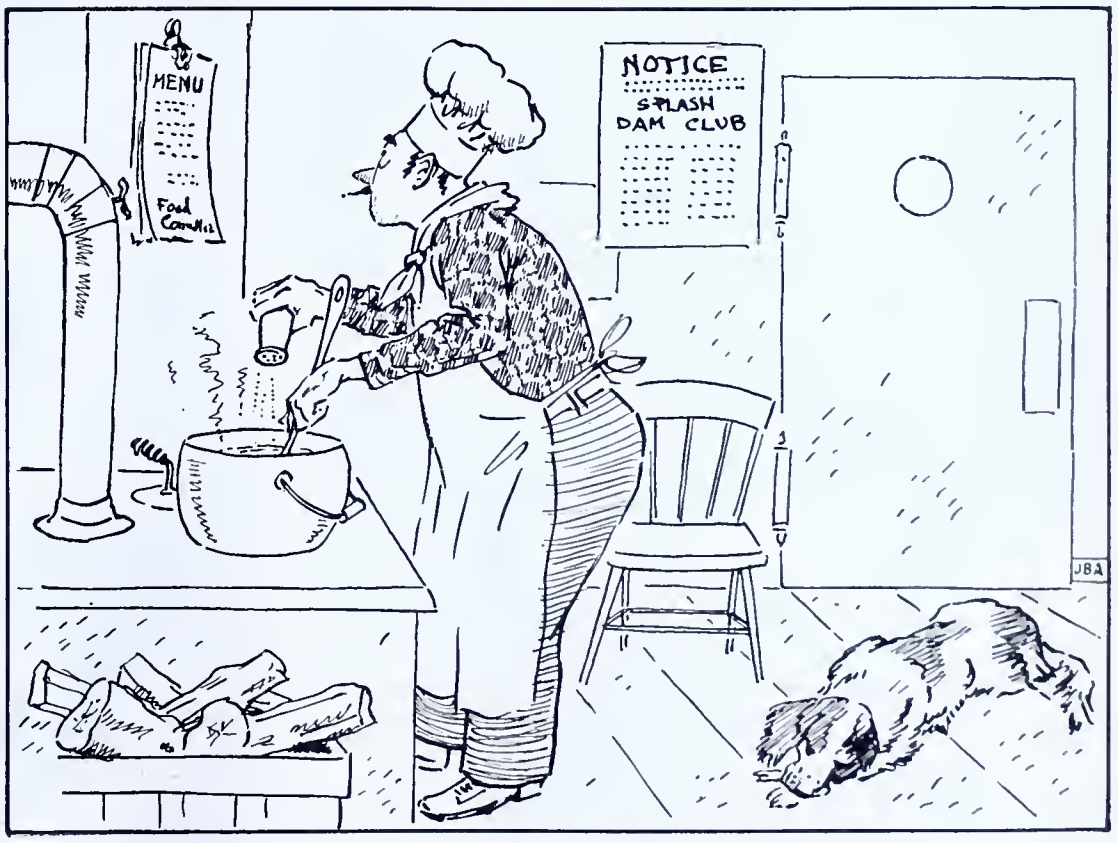
Sunday's late breakfast included grapefruit juice, hot cereal, ham and eggs, and fried potatoes. Because breakfast was served late and a dinner of fried chicken, mashed potatoes, lima beans, cake and peaches was served early, there was no lunch on Sunday.

Monday — Breakfast — tomato juice, cold cereal, hot cakes and sausage. Dinner—Pork loin roast, mashed potatoes, stewed tomatoes, applesauce and pie.

Tuesday—Breakfast—grapefruit juice, hot cereal, bacon and eggs. Dinner—roast beef, browned potatoes, corn, cole slaw and cake.

Wednesday—Breakfast—tomato juice, cold cereal, ham and eggs. Dinner—Pork chops, mashed potatoes, lima beans, applesauce, cookies and pineapples.

Thursday — Breakfast — tomato or fruit juice, hot cereal, hot cakes and sausage. Dinner—Meat (chef's choice), boiled potatoes, corn, and cookies.




A chef was appointed each day.

# THIS PREDATOR

By JACOB BATES ABBOTT

IF, in the last several years, you have had any contact with Game Protectors, Game Commissioners, sportsmen, farmers or books and pamphlets on wildlife, you have heard more than once the dread name PREDATOR. At the door of this monster is laid practically everything that annoys the farmer or upland game hunter. Grouse, quail and pheasants are scarce; rabbits (outside of victory gardens) have vanished from the countryside; hens are not laying; cows have gone dry; the price of feed is skyrocketing; the pump won't work and taxes are high. Wow! A roar goes up from a thousand indignant throats. A yell for the blood of foxes, weasels, hawks and owls. "Kill them all! They've eaten all the grouse, pheasants, hens and ducks that I wanted to kill myself!"

Now, before dealing with four-footed and winged marauders, let's take a look at man's record, for home sapiens is, of course, the super-predator of all time. Any self-respecting mink, fox or weasel would step aside with becoming modesty before the achievements of man in the department of predation.

Without touching on his appalling waste of such gifts of nature as timber, oil, coal, iron and other resources, shall we inspect his activities among his lesser brethren? Since coming to this country he has, chiefly in the last hundred years, slaughtered to the point of extermination: 40 or 50 million bison; about the same number of pronghorns; all the eastern woodland caribou south of the St. Lawrence; 5 to 10 million fur seals and sea lions; two or three hundred thousand sea otters and a couple of billion (all there were) passenger pigeons and eskimo curlews. This gentle playfulness touches only on man's relations with his bird and animal neighbors. What he is capable of when he really gets started in the extermination business is shown in Belsen, Buchenwald, Hiroshimo and Nagasaki.

What is a predatory animal or bird anyway? Well, in its common usage, anything that interferes with or takes something that man wants for himself. The "savage" beast or bird of prey hunts, with one theoretical exception, for just about the same reason that man does—to get something to eat. The above-mentioned exception is that the fox or goshawk is possibly unaware of deriving any recreational value from his hunting. A gunner who has, armed with a weapon capable of killing a grizzly bear, heroically blasted the life out of a fierce cottontail, is properly indignant when he later finds the remains of a rabbit which has been killed and partly eaten by a sly, cruel fox, armed only with his wits, teeth and toenails. For another example of clear thinking along these lines bend your mental powers on the following bit of logic: men like to kill grouse; goshawks like to kill grouse; so, in his infinite wisdom man kills the goshawks so that they cannot kill the grouse, and—then kills the grouse. Thus destroying both species. Human nature, you say? Oh, sure.

All the difficulties that we experience with the wildfolk are the direct results of our intereference with Nature's scheme of balance. Granted that we cannot move into a country overrun with game without clashing with the native inhabitants. So what? So we move in, and proceed to kill all the game we like to eat or whose furs and feathers we like to wear and then, when we have some trouble in finding a grouse to knock off for the five o'clock snack, we begin moaning and groaning about how the bobcats and foxes have killed off all the birds. Remember, those bobcats and foxes were here for several thousand years before we came—and were eating all that time; that we found, when we arrived on these shores, a few hundreds of million birds still around. Those wicked predators had not exterminated them in countless centuries. Again, so what? Why, so we kill them and, righteously indignant at their amazing scarcity, begin to "control" (or kill) the bears, foxes, wolves, coyotes, lynxes, cougars and lesser fry because they were killing "our" game or interfering with our sport.

Other exceptionally rational thinkers are the men who inexpertly manage farms with poorly-protected poultry yards in country where foxes, skunks and wildcats have roamed for centuries and who then roar with fury when they find wandering chickens and ducklings nipped off in their youth. Equally perspicacious are the western stockmen who proceed to harbor a couple of thousand sheep on some foothill range—the natural home for generations of mountain lions, coyotes and cats. To hear their lobbying howls for the Fish & Wildlife Service to poison these rascals you would think that they had never read "Red Riding Hood." It apparently had never entered their minds that their little lambs might not be safe. As well shove a couple of plates of mutton chops through the wire of a concentration camp and then cry out to heaven when you returned to find them eaten.

Accurate studies of the life histories of foxes, with special emphasis on their food, have been made in recent years in New York, New England, Virginia and the midwest. And if you think that reynard's diet consists chiefly of chicken, grouse and

# LEGEND

*Illustrations by The Author*

pheasant, you are in for a shock. Examinations showed that, year in, year out, mice and rabbits were his principal food items; after these, fruit and insects were most frequently taken. Poultry and game birds occurred in a relatively small number of specimens. These examinations were made in all seasons of the year and, in New York state, over a period of twelve years (Seagears, 1944). No doubt a fox may prefer a tender grouse for breakfast—but—mice cannot fly and are far more abundant. Foxes kill some game and poultry, and probably always will; but they mostly take that food most easily obtained, just as man does. Absurdly inaccurate statements about the fox's diet are made, usually because some energetic, yet uninformed individual finds, in some restricted locality, evidences of reynard's depredations on the local poultry farm or pheasantry. A great hue and cry is made, which the neighborhood papers make much of.

Last May one of our sovereign sister states came out with an impressive two-page document, headed:

"OFFICIAL RELEASE OF THE STATE FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

Release P.M. Newspapers
Thursday, May 31.

to the effect that ". . . Bre'r Fox . . . far from being a brother . . . is Enemy No. 1 of the man who hunts with gun and dogs . . ." The aroused Commission, blandly overlooking plenty of two-legged Enemies No. 1 of sportsmen, further importantly proclaims for newspaper consumption: ". . . a total of 551 foxes were taken . . . by an aroused, well-coached and intelligent countryside . . . rabbits, pheasants, squirrels, groundhogs, quails, ducks, eggs and vegetable matter (What! No pigs, sheep nor cattle?) were littered around entrances to dens . . . this county's campaign should be an eye-opener to the entire State . . . etc., etc." Looks as if foxes, not mosquitos, were taking over the countryside. "Lay that Flit-gun down, brother, we're going fox-hunting!"

Because he has a very happy style of writing on the subject, I would like to quote Clayton B. Seagears (in "The Fox in New York," 1944) on fox hunting:

"Any stimulant which takes mankind outdoors and sets him to walking on the good earth with a lilt to his step and a lift to his thoughts is very fine medicine. Br'er Fox has been big medicine for a long, long time. This vulpine bottle of beef, iron and wine has what it takes to oust a man from his chair not only when the weather is fair but when it is extremely foul. That's

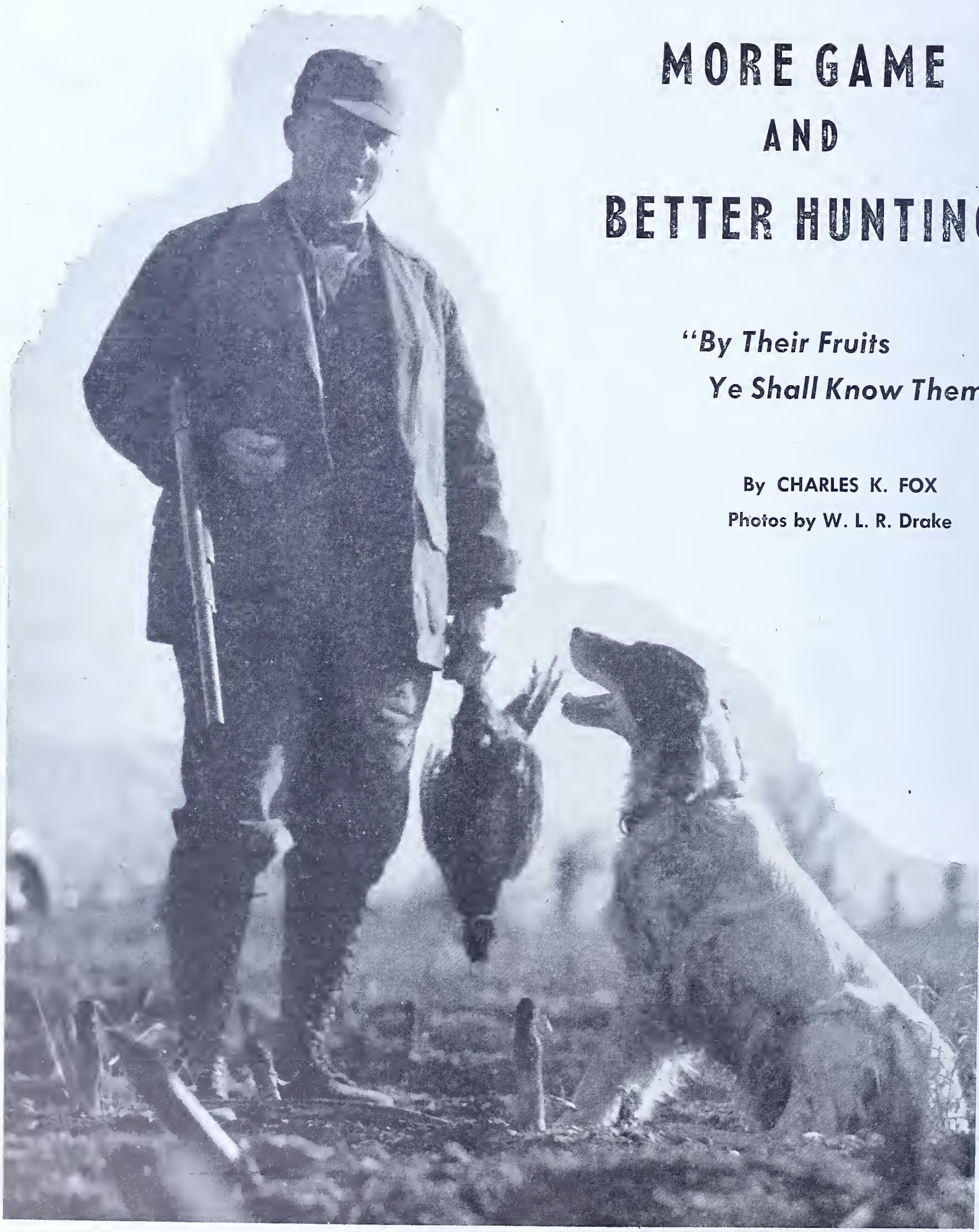
probably why writers use the adjective *seasoned* when describing fox hunters.

A fox is equipped with a very warm pair of pants to which Nature has attached a highly efficient muff. The fox needs these items because, when pursued, he is apt to seek out the highest, toughest, windiest and nastiest crag on the horizon . . . Fox hunters . . . must go where the fox goes and they usually do. As a result some of the world's greatest appetites are possessed by fox hunters. The medicine is *that* good . . ."

Save for scattered local exceptions, small game scarcity is seldom attributable to over-abundance of foxes, wildcats, weasels, hawks or owls. The shoe is more often on the other foot. The density of small rodent population generally controls the numbers of meat-eaters. Thus Seton, in "Life Histories of Northern Animals," says: ". . . abundance of rabbits is accompanied by an abundance of birds and beasts that prey upon them; and yet (MARK THIS!) the destruction by these enemies makes no perceptible difference . . ."

Now, let me gently drop the word "weasel" into this discussion. Who ever heard a good word for this sleek little engine of destruction? Just ask someone. Well, if I can be heard above the wild chorus of indigant "Nays," let me say that a weasel is the most perfected and efficient mouse and rat trap ever devised. A couple of weasels around a farm will clean out the rat and mouse population and put dollars and cents into the farmer's pocket by destroying these pests. If there are vermin in the animal world (which may be doubtful for probably all species of wildlife have their specialized jobs in the great Natural Scheme), field and house mice, cotton and brown rats would certainly get the official nod in the East. Outside of destructive insects these rodents cause more damage to the householders' and farmers' provisions and crops than any other agents of the wild. In 1938 we were living in an old house (part of it had been an inn before the Revolution) seventeen miles outside Philadelphia. The place had a small stream on it, several gardens and some of the biggest rats I've ever seen. Disused kennels on adjoining land had attracted them. In spring and summer it was not so bad—the rats stayed outside most of the time; but in winter they really took over the house. One couple of rodent newlyweds chose the sound-box of a grand piano as a homesite and six young were born in it before we discovered the nest, tastefully composed of frag-

*(Continued on Page 18)*



# MORE GAME AND BETTER HUNTING

*"By Their Fruits Ye Shall Know Them"*

By CHARLES K. FOX

Photos by W. L. R. Drake

# FOOD PLOTS ARE THE ANSWER TO MORE AND BETTER SHOOTING

THIS is a story of vastly improved ringneck pheasant hunting and an account of how two men first developed and now maintain reasonably good all season gunning on their farms. Their experiences can well serve as a guide for anyone who wishes to bring about a similar condition in any agricultural section within the ringneck pheasant range. It can be accomplished whether there are birds there today or whether it is an introductory proposition.

It should be noted that when both of these men started to build up their game supplies, ringnecks were an oddity and not a piece of game customarily sought by the hunters of the district. Those who had bird dogs traveled for their hunting and they were faced with the problem of where to train their dogs before the opening of the season. Many of them sent their pointers and setters to trainers located in the bird country. It should also be noted that in these instances the bird supply was successfully built up in the face of very heavy hunting pressure. However, in view of the fact that hens of this polygamist bird are protected by State law this was not difficult.

First let's take a look at some specific results achieved on the Lewis Kunkel farm. One afternoon Lew returned to his home at four o'clock. As the car proceeded through the driveway he saw two hunters with two springers combing one of the game plots not far from the refuge. In spite of the fact that only one hour remained of the hunting day, and in view of the fact that the conclusion of the season was approaching, Lew planned to make a brief hunt, so he quickly effected a change of clothing.

He decided to first go through the game plot which had been hunted twenty minutes previously with the thought of taking the wire edge off of the dog before proceeding to a more likely spot. Much to his surprise and satisfaction, he flushed five hens and two cock birds from the eighth of an acre game plot. One of the latter he shot.

Between the time that the two hunters with the two dogs left the plot, and Lew with his dog entered it, these seven birds must have walked into it from the nearby refuge for their preroosting feeding.

A quick tour to another game plot approximately one quarter of a mile distant produced a cock bird, giving him his Pennsylvania daily bag limit of two.

Now, if the episode had taken place in some isolated and posted spot, or had it occurred early in the season, there would be nothing remarkable about it, but it took place under conditions exactly the opposite, where there was heavy hunting each preceding day of the season. Furthermore, it did not happen just that one time three years ago, but there have been similar occurrences on different parts of this hard hunted farm.

The news of this highly constructive conservation work along with the excellent results that it brought about traveled the grapevine. One March day Lew was surprised when a stranger asked to be shown the farm. The visitor turned out to be an important representative of the Federal Soil Conservation Service.

It was at that time of year prior to the breeding season when the supply of game as well as the supply of food and cover is at its lowest. The two men took a brisk fifteen minute walk over part of the territory. The following is what they saw, and of course one never sees all the game: about twenty quail, eleven ringneck hens, two cock birds, five rabbits, and three grey squirrels.

This certainly constituted a fine supply of brood stock for the ensuing year. No such amount of game could be found on an area hunted as hard as this in which no refuge figured and no such concentration could exist where extra food is not provided.

The answer of course is proper management and this includes food, cover, stocking and predator control. The principle of the plan is simple and logical, yet thorough.

There are 150 acres in the farm. Thirty-five acres comprise a game refuge in which there is no hunting or training dogs, and this includes the owner. The remaining 115 acres are open to public hunting and dog training.

For the most part, the refuge is made up of excellent cover, some of which is natural and some of which has been brought about. There is an old stand of hemlock, edged with blackberry and raspberry bushes on the hill beside the stream which flows through the center of the refuge. There are about a dozen native thorn apples near a small briar patch. Beside the agricultural land, along the refuge line is a dense strip of weeds in which there have been spot plantings of Norway spruce and white pine. At another point along the wire is a border of cultivated raspberries which deters dogs from entering the refuge and which provides fruit for the owner and the birds. Additional thorn apples along with wild grapes, osage orange, mountain ash and coral berry have been planted to improve future conditions.

Actually there is no part of the refuge worth cultivating for a farm crop. A single strand of wire surrounds the area and it is well posted. No one could enter the refuge without noticing a sign or without going under the wire.

The land surrounding the sanctuary is cultivated and open to public hunting and dog training, but it is specially managed to increase the game supply, and to make hunting more interesting. The handling of this area

(Turn Page)

If you can bring about the planting of a game plot in your favorite hunting area the game supply will increase. The constant supply of winter food and cover will attract the game birds and rabbits and in the spring they will nest nearby. This is a more effective method of feeding than the periodic placing of grain in special winter feeders. The proper planting routine is plow in the late fall, then in May harrow, sow by broadcasting, and again harrow.

Amber sorghum is one of the best loved foods of pheasants and quail. It has proved to be the most satisfactory of all winter game plots. An ideal situation is to plant a game plot within the sanctuary of the safety zone area. It should be adjacent to cover and protected to a degree from the wind. The author inspects amber sorghum on his farm in Cumberland County.

beyond the refuge is as vital to good hunting as any work done within the refuge.

Many birds upon being flushed are in the habit of taking sanctuary in the cover of the protected area. Now and then during the course of the open season, at least some of these birds wander out of the refuge. In order to encourage such activity, the land beyond the refuge must be properly handled.

At the head of every natural game highway leading from the refuge is a small plot of food. In one place a thick stand of weeds and briars on the refuge line leads thirty feet to a pipe under the dirt road. In a small plot on the other side of the road has been planted silky dogwood, osage orange, and domestic bittersweet. Adjacent to this cover is an eighth of an acre strip of amber sorghum. Thus, the birds have a natural highway or crossing from the cover of the refuge to the plot of food in the hunting area. Tracks in the snow have revealed that at times they travel right through the pipe. If no natural travel lane led to the plot, the birds would have a tendency to hesitate to move into it.

At another vantage point along the wire is a gully lined with black alder elderberry, briars and weeds. At the head of this game highway is a strip of combine wheatland milo.

On the extremity of the farm several hundred yards from the sanctuary is an old raspberry patch of such density that entrance into it is discouraging to a dog, let alone a man. Adjacent to this effective cover is a strip of Egyptian wheat and a strip of millet. On the hill above a swamp is planted hegari and broom corn.

The side hill which cannot be cultivated in a practical manner has been planted in wild roses and honey suckle. Before the honey suckle became established the field was subject to erosion. On all parts of the farm where erosion occurred plantings of some kind have been made with the result that today there is practically no loss of valuable top soil. In the case of the honey suckle great care has been taken to plant it where it cannot spread beyond desired bounds.

The good land of the farm is cultivated along normal lines with annual crops of corn, alfalfa, and wheat, along with a truck patc However, every fence row is twenty feet i width and has been planted with berry bearing shrubs and vines. The rows not on provide a certain amount of winter food ar cover, but they are travel lanes for gam and major nesting areas.

This landowner is of the opinion that th song and game birds which nest in the fenc rows during the spring and summer destro harmful insects to such an extent that the more than make up for the loss of farm lan devoted to fence rows.

Groundhogs, a game animal in their ow right, are an asset to other game for the dig the holes which are used by the bird and rabbits. If the fence rows are wid these holes will be located there instead c in the fields where they are objectionable t the farmer.

Beside such lanes are strips of broom cor and kaffir corn. Experiments are now bein carried on with birdsfoot tree foil, an perennial rye grass which is reputed to be a excellent quail food. However, their relativ values are questionable at this writing.

In every case it has been discovered tha the plots should be sown by broadcastin more densely than is recommended. Five t seven pounds per quarter acre seems t bring maximum yield. In the planting operation, the ground should be plowed and harrowed, then sown, and finally, again harrowed or rolled. Plots sown with mixe seed have been disappointing because th faster growers choke out those of slowe development. The plots should be sow immediately after corn planting time. Comparisons have been made when strips o different game foods were sown side by side

To date, amber sorghum appears to be the cream of the crop with combine wheatland milo, Egyptian wheat and broom corn highly

If special food plots are not posted to trespassing they are subject to great damage by tramping and lose much of their value. The tramping of a farmer's crop is punishable by a heavy fine. Amber sorghum will average 6 feet in height as the result of a wet season but in a dry year the growth is about 4 feet. This strip is on the farm of John E. Fox, Jr.

effective. Hegari, kaffir corn and millet have been satisfactory. Soy beans flatten readily and after a snow-fall provide little or no food and cover. A number of small plots, approximately 200 by 50 feet adjacent to cover are more effective than one or two larger ones, and strip plantings are more desirable than squares.

For the first two years of this experimental work hunting was permitted in the game food plots, but they were trampled so badly that they were almost a complete loss as a winter food. Grain was knocked off the heads and many stalks were flattened so that they were completely covered by snow. Now the plots are posted to trespassing, but dogs are permitted to work through them. Hunters respect the refuge and game plot signs, for they feel that they are getting improved hunting and a fair break.

Wherever the land of this farm is submarginal and a profit from cultivation is questionable it has been planted in either evergreens for cover, or trees, shrubs and vines for the combination of winter food and cover.

This of course means that the management of this land is being conducted on a long range basis and the carrying capacity will improve as time goes on. Some day there will be a good revenue from Christmas trees and timber. The trees that bear game food are not yet producing; however, some of the shrubs are. The following trees have been planted: mountain ash, grey stemmed dogwood, red osiar dogwood, Florida dogwood, Osage orange, thorn apple, holly, sand pear, persimmon, hazelnut and flowering crab *(flora bunda)* along with the white pines and Norway spruce. Mountain ash and thorn apple appear to be the most practical. Some of the others are relatively expensive. The first mentioned is easy to grow and to buy, it is not expensive, it is most prolific and highly decorative. We hold high hopes for it.

Among the shrubs planted are: coral berry, black haw, wild rose *(rosa rugosa)*, domestic bittersweet, American high bush cranberry and silky dogwood. Coral berry transplants and grows readily. Black Haw is a thing of beauty. Wild roses bear fruit. Domestic bitter sweet is a trailer and a climber, and it bears more fruit and offers a great deal more cover than the wild variety. Silky dogwood and American high bush cranberry are fine lowland shrubs for they thrive on wet feet.

Some of the vines which have been planted are: green briar, wild grape, evergreen bitter sweet *(enonymus radicans)* variety *(vegetus)*, and honeysuckle. They all produce some food and offer great cover.

A certain amount of artificial winter feeding is carried on. An ingenious arrangement from which there is an abundant supply of corn has been constructed. A small corn crib, the bottom of which is a foot above the ground, was built within 100 feet of two grey squirrel dens. Incidentally, these dens are in the refuge. The bottom of the crib is of lattice work. The squirrels enter the small building and eat the hearts of the individual grains of corn. The pieces or "cut corn" then fall to the ground through the open floor. Thus the active squirrels place an almost constant supply of corn within reach of the birds. The spot is well sheltered and always free of snow. It is crow proof too, for the wily crow will not walk under anything to secure his food. To make the crib particularly attractive to the squirrels a den in the form of a small wooden beer keg with an opening near the top has been suspended on the inside wall.

Before the corn crop of the farm goes to market, the ears are assorted or graded. The nubbins, which have practically no market value, go into the crib for game; the fine selected corn is sold at a price higher than that of the run of the lot.

In addition to this feeder, several others have been constructed. They are simply elevated brush piles, eight inches above the ground under which corn and grit are periodically placed. The shelters are constructed so that game can keep out of the wind yet they have avenues of escape from predators.

Several such piles as an experiment were placed over groundhog holes on the theory that the game could enter the hole to take refuge from very cold weather or possibly from some predator. It was found by slipping a thermometer in holes that the temperature well down in the hole is never extreme. It has always been very interesting for us to read the signs in the snow at these spots.

Now let's take a look at the other farm; worthwhile contributions have come from this quarter. The owner is an expert in his own right on game propagation and as a hobby he conducts a large and elaborate pheasant and quail farm.

Jake Phillips is a name honored and respected in this neck of Penn's Woods because of the time, study and money this man has spent to improve hunting for all. The Dutch blood in his veins makes him conscientious and positive. When he has proved to his own satisfaction that he is right he is not afraid to speak his mind and he can back up convictions from a vast store of experience. A more keen observer of wildlife never drew breath.

*(Continued on Page 14)*

**Colby milo is a sturdy stalked grain that bears profusely. No matter how deep a snow might be some of the large heads of grain will be available for game. A quarter of an acre plot of this grain will contain sufficient food to support dozens of birds all winter. This is the answer to increasing the carrying capacity of an area. Better hunting will result.**

DAY'S END Photo by W. L. R. Drake

# THE 1944 GAME HARVEST

IN industry the success of a manufacturing plant in a large measure depends upon its capacity to produce high grade merchandise in volume so it can be sold at a reasonable price. In the field of game conservation it is but natural to consider the annual game harvest as one of the most tangible things by which to measure the efficiency of the program, although today thousands of our sportsmen look forward to several days afield during the hunting season as an opportunity for relaxation and fraternization and feel amply repaid with a bag of several pieces of game.

The final figures for the 1944 game harvest would have been made public much sooner had it not been necessary to mail reminder notice to tardy hunters, as the bulk of the kill (as reported by 76.5 of the licensees) was available early in April. The official 1944 bag is based on reports filed by 95.9% of the 607,338 licensees, as compared to 97.4% for 1943, an excellent response considering the war conditions which prevailed. The kill included: Deer, Antlered, 28,411; Bears, 295; Rabbits, 2,702,395; Hares (Snowshoes), 3,665; Hungarian Partridges, 206; Squirrels, 859,399; Raccoons, 49,746; Wild Turkeys, 2,849, Ruffed Grouse, 101,224; Ringneck Pheasants, 414,797; Quail, 47,969; Woodcocks, 16,400; Rails, Gallinules and Coots, 1,371; Grackles (Blackbirds), 39,175; Waterfowl, 52,716 and Woodchucks, 171,722.

### 8-Year Tabulated Kill

Since 1944 was the last of an 8-year period for compulsory filing of the general game-kill report, there is published with this article a table giving the game-kill from 1937 (The first year the kill was based on the tabulation of the reports) to 1944 inclusive. This report also includes the average annual kill during the same period, Prior to 1937 the kill was based on the field officers' estimates and on small sampling lots of Game-Kill Reports which were used as measuring sticks to arrive at an overall average.

From the first year until the last year, with few exceptions, the Game-Kill Reports were tabulated, the results proved conclusively that the official published reports prior to 1937, based on field officers' estimates, etc., were underestimated and not overestimated, as some believed. On all species for the 8-year period the estimated kill ran 64.6% of the tabulated kill. The average annual kill during the 8-year period numbered 5,467,999 pieces, weighing 16,762,652 pounds, or 8,361 tons. During the previous 8-year period (1929-1936) the average annual kill numbered 4,074,683 pieces, weighing 11,-251,920 pounds, or 5,626 tons.

### Cooperation of Hunters

A study of the "Comparative Statement—Percent of Reports Filed" which accompanies this article, discloses some interesting information. The first year the reports were

tabulated only 69% of the licensees filed their reports voluntarily. From the outset the Commission decided to proceed in an educational way. Accordingly the first year it was necessary to mail special reminder notices to 31% of the licensees. By 1939, 89% of the licensees filed their reports voluntarily which gain was not only held but further increased to 89.7% in 1940. Therefore in 1939 it was necessary to mail notices to only 10.4% of the licensees, and in 1940 it was still possible to match that splendid accomplishment. It is believed that the degree of cooperation on the part of the hunters registered during 1939 and 1940 would have been continued during the next four years had it not been for the national emergency created by World War No. 2. It will be observed that beginning in 1941 we started to lose the gains previously made and by 1944 only 76.5% of the licensed hunters filed their reports voluntarily. Because of this loss, it again became necessary to mail many more notices to tardy hunters. From our best year, 1940, when it was necessary to mail notices to only 10.3% of the licensed hunters, the number steadily increased to 23.6% in 1944, but still 7.4% less than 1937. This greatly increased the cost incident to the tabulation of these reports, and delayed the final result.

### Number of Days Hunted

Prior to 1939 the Commission did not have on file any authentic information available concerning the number of days the average man hunts, or how he divides his time between "Big Game" and "Small Game", or if he hunts "Both Small and Big Game". Beginning in 1939 and continuing until 1944 the Commission tabulated this information from the Game-Kill Reports. It was possible to do this in conjunction with the tabulation of the kill, hence it was done without additional cost. Not all the hunters included in their reports information on the number of days huntued. According to the records, during the period from 1939 to 1942 from 50.1% to 58.0% of the hunters who filed reports game information on the number of days hunted. However, in 1943, when the reporting blank was improved, 74.9% of the hunters who filed reports gave the number of days hunted. This excellent showing was continued during 1944. It will be noted that the average number of days per hunter decreased from 8.3 in 1939 to 7.4 in 1941, and then leveled off at 7.1 for 1942, 1943 and 1944. The 6-year average shows that 49.4% of the hunters reporting the number of days hunted, hunted "Big Game" or "Small Game" exclusively, while 50.6% hunted "Both Small and Big Game".

### Big Game Reports

While 1944 was the last year for compulsory filing of the general Game-Kill Report,

*(Continued on Page 30)*

## COMPARATIVE STATEMENT

### Number of Days Hunted

| Kind of Game Hunted | 1939 Av. No. Days Per Hunter | 1939 Percent | 1940 Av. No. Days Per Hunter | 1940 Percent | 1941 Av. No. Days Per Hunter | 1941 Percent | 1942 Av. No. Days Per Hunter | 1942 Percent | 1943 Av. No. Days Per Hunter | 1943 Percent | 1944 Av. No. Days Per Hunter | 1944 Percent |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Big Game Only | 6.7 | 3.7 | 7.6 | 2.9 | 4.6 | 3.9 | 5.3 | 5.3 | 8.4 | 3.6 | 7.8 | 3.7 |
| Small Game Only | 38.0 | 5.8 | 31.0 | 5.6 | 46.9 | 5.5 | 50.7 | 3.0 | 43.1 | 5.0 | 46.1 | 5.2 |
| Both Small and Gig Game | 55.3 | 10.5 | 61.4 | 9.7 | 48.5 | 9.7 | 44.0 | 9.6 | 48.5 | 9.5 | 46.1 | 9.6 |
| Average Number of Days Per Hunter, All Classifications | | 8.3 | | 7.9 | | 7.4 | | 7.1 | | 7.1 | | 7.1 |

SIX YEAR AVERAGE

| | Percent | Av. No. of Days Per Hunter |
|---|---|---|
| Big Game | 6.9 | 3.6 |
| Small Game | 42.5 | 5.4 |
| Both Small and Big Game | 50.6 | 9.8 |

## COMPARATIVE STATEMENT

### Percent of Reports Filed

| | 1937 | 1938 | 1939 | 1940 | 1941 | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total licenses issued | 606,618 | 661,730 | 662,901 | 679,168 | 686,356 | 649,215 | 582,734 | 607,388 |
| Number of Game-Kill Reports filed Voluntarily | 418,566 (69%) | 527,075 (80%) | 589,734 (89%) | 609,778 (89.7%) | 580,974 (84½%) | 525,631 (81%) | 462,580 (79.5%) | 463,386 (76.4%) |
| Number of Special Reminder Notices Mailed | 189,064 (31%) | 132,454 (20%) | 68,730 (10.4%) | 70,966 (10.3%) | 102,827 (15%) | 123,003 (19%) | 120,258 (20.5%) | 143,968 (23.6%) |
| Percent of Game-Kill Reports Included in Final Tabulations | 93% | 98% | 98½% | 98½% | 97½% | 96.4% | 97.4% | 95.9% |

## EIGHT-YEAR REPORT

### *(Based on Complete Tabulations of Hunter's Reports)*

| Species | Season of 1937 | Season of 1938 | Season of 1939 | Season of 1940 | Season of 1941 | Season of 1942 | Season of 1943 | Season of 1944 | Average annual kill for period (A) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Deer, Legal Antlered | 39,347 | (closed) | 49,106 | 40,995 | 19,271 | 30,860 | 23,931 | 28,411 | 82,671 |
| Deer, Legal Antlerless | (closed) | 171,662 | 14,581 | 145,580 | (closed) | (closed) | 14,951 | (closed) | |
| Total Deer | 39,347 | 171,662 | 63,687 | 186,575 | 19,271 | 30,860 | 38,882 | 28,411 | |
| Bears | 537 | 384 | 535 | 524 | 593 | 149 | 307 | 295 | 416 |
| Rabbits | 3,074,820 | 4,263,759 | 3,804,701 | 3,266,537 | 3,575,104 | 3,504,390 | 2,572,993 | 2,702,395 | 3,333,087 |
| Hares (Snowshoes) | 2,420 | 2,120 | (closed) | (closed) | (closed) | 6,019 | 3,716 | 3,665 | 3,588 |
| Hungarian Partridges | (closed) | (closed) | ..... | ..... | (closed) | 485 | 250 | 206 | 314 |
| Squirrels | 1,056,408 | 1,106,914 | 945,471 | 1,044,784 | 936,213 | 1,201,979 | 779,745 | 859,399 | 991,364 |
| Raccoons | 29,842 | 36,046 | 38,452 | 40,802 | 44,145 | 32,664 | 45,320 | 49,746 | 39,627 |
| Wild Turkeys | 6,619 | 6,766 | 5,191 | 5,218 | 3,911 | 3,938 | 2,297 | 2,849 | 4,599 |
| Ruffed Grouse | 177,683 | 224,479 | 237,245 | 221,474 | 187,990 | 237,408 | 117,219 | 101,224 | 194,340 |
| Ringneck Pheasants | 371,526 | 517,280 | 471,539 | 459,071 | 537,990 | 463,794 | 431,735 | 414,797 | 458,466 |
| Quail | 105,795 | 109,891 | 111,674 | 74,808 | 70,929 | 68,409 | 41,373 | 47,969 | 78,856 |
| Woodcocks | 57,244 | 50,085 | 40,816 | 29,087 | 31,328 | 27,729 | 15,588 | 16,400 | 33,535 |
| Wilson's Snipe, Rails, Gallinules and Coots | 12,657 | 8,717 | 6,294 | 5,091 | 4,162* | 2,671* | 1,779* | 1,371* | 5,343 |
| Grackles (Blackbirds) | 78,543 | 78,613 | 47,449 | 43,204 | 46,566 | 38,888 | 25,764 | 39,175 | 49,775 |
| Wild Waterfowl | 16,758 | 21,329 | 38,474 | 53,060 | 55,836 | 64,454 | 53,998 | 52,716 | 44,578 |
| Woodchucks | (no record) | 145,528 | 178,691 | 190,735 | 196,729 | 184,921 | 157,202 | 171,722 | 153,191 |
| Total Number of Pieces | 5,030,199 | 6,743,573 | 5,990,219 | 5,619,970 | 5,710,767 | 5,868,758 | 4,288,168 | 4,492,340 | 5,467,999 |
| Total Weight | 12,805,172 | 25,525,899 | 17,794,984 | 26,553,237 | 13,089,898 | 14,199,510 | 12,219,561 | 11,912,961 | 16,762,652 |
| Reduced to Tons Equals | 6,402 | 12,762 | 8,897 | 13,277 | 6,645 | 7,100 | 6,110 | 5,956 | 8,361 |

* Does not include Snipe, season closed.
(A) Where certain species were not legal during the entire period the average was obtained by using the number of years such species were taken.

Retrieve.

Photo by W. L. R. Drake.

# TRANSACTIONS OF THE COMMISSION'S MEETING SEPT. 22, 1945

THE Game Commission, at its meeting on September 22, took further steps to reshuffle and improve its operating organization and to develop a more efficient and economical system of administration to handle its greatly expanded post-war program. Under this revised plan the headquarters organization will consist of three principal units, with only three employees reporting direct to the Executive Director instead of five or more as in the past. These units will be (a)—Public Relations (Staff); (b)—Administration (Staff); and (c) Field Management (Line).

The Administration Bureau will consist of the Divisions of: (1) Lands, (2) Research and Planning, (3) Propagation and Distribution, and (4) Accounting and Budget.

Under the Field Management Bureau there will be two principal units; namely, (1) a General Field Operations Division, and (2) a Land Operations Division. The Training Unit will become part of said Bureau. These will function as "staff units" and clear to the field through the office of the Director of the Bureau.

The Seven (7) Field Divisions, with 150 districts, operating under the Director of the Field Management Bureau, will be continued as at present, and in each Division provision is to be made for (1) a General Field Operations Assistant and (2) a Land Operations Assistant, the former to be non-technical employees selected from field officers who qualify; the latter to be technical assistants, with required specialized training and experience, who shall perform the same duties as the present Technicians. These division assistants will be "staff employees" to help carry out the work planned by the comparable headquarters units. The field work has increased so greatly that the Supervisors need assistance so they may spend more time with their men on the ground, also handle major problems more efficiently.

A new position of Field Coordinator was established to function under the future Field Operations Division, and Supervisor Rollin Heffelfinger of Irwin was appointed to that position. He has been assigned as Acting Chief of the Division of Law Enforcement due to the absence of W. C. Shaffer, the present Chief, who is on extended sick leave.

Land Technician John J. Slautterback of Kingston is temporarily administering the work in Division "G".

Further study of the suggested sub-divisions under the several units above outlined is now being made and the present personnel will be assigned to suitable positions and new personnel where necessary will be agreed upon as needed to complete the organization.

A resolution was passed to demote, not to exceed one salary grade annually, any officer who, after having reached the top of his established grade, shall, during any fiscal year, fail to perform service of a quality equal to that required of his fellow officers to merit advancement.

Any employee who is demoted for two

years in succession will be cited by the Trial Board to show cause why he should not be dismissed from the service on grounds of inefficiency and neglect of duty, in the same manner as officers are now cited when they fail to earn their authorized annual increments for a like period.

*Training School.* The Commission decided to enroll a class of 25 student officers in the Training School early in May or June, 1946. The student class will be chosen from those with the highest average standing in the competitive examinations on a state-wide basis. Applicants must have been bona fide residents of Pennsylvania for not less than three years preceding the date of application. All applicants shall have passed their 23rd birthday on or before January 1, 1946 and shall not have passed their 35th birthday prior to that date. Each applicant shall have had a minimum of five years of practical experience in hunting or trapping, or have completed a minimum recognized course of study of two years in forestry or wildlife management (or the two combined) in an educational institution, plus two or more years of practical experience in trapping or hunting. The minimum height requirement remains at 5'8". The minimum weight shall be 140 pounds stripped of all clothing. All applicants shall be able to pass a 20/30 vision test without glasses Each successful applicant shall be subject to a rigid physical examination and shall be free from all physical defects, including the shortage or loss of a member of the body.

Certain exceptions are to be made in age for veterans, deputy game protectors and full-time acting game protectors. Examination credits will also be allowed these same groups. Successful applicants will be subjected to rigid character investigation.

The Training School has been certified as an approved training institution for World War II veterans, which will allow them the full advantage of the GI Bill for educational purposes.

The competitive written examination for the school will likely be held sometime in April 1946. Public announcement of the examination will be made early in 1946 through the press, radio, sportsmen's organizations, Pennsylvania Game News, and other available sources. Formal applications are now being printed and will be available later.

*Deer Situation.* Further consideration was given recommendations for an antlerless deer season this year in Carbon County, and reports of the field and office staff based on recent interviews with numerous landowners were carefully reviewed. Inasmuch as such landowners indicated that the deer in the areas did not seriously destroy crops this year due to improved food conditions in the forests caused by the wet summer, the Commission felt the situation can be handled satisfactorily until the Fall of 1946, when a general antlerless deer season is believed to be necessary.

*Shooting Hours.* A Resolution was passed fixing the hours governing hunting, trapping, etc., on the basis of Eastern Standard Time.

The first act of the Commission after it convened was to adopt a resolution concerning the death of Commissioner Rosenkrans, as follows:

WHEREAS, Dr. Karl B. Rosenkrans, a member of the Pennsylvania Game Commission continuously from April 13, 1944, to the 23d of August, 1945, at which time he lost his life while on a deep sea fishing trip near Rehoboth Beach, Delaware; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Rosenkrans was an active member of the Game Commission who had the best interests of the sportsmen of Pennsylvania ever foremost in mind, a true sportsman of broad experience who enthusiastically discharged his duties as Commissioner; and

WHEREAS, His untimely passing is a serious loss to his family, to the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the sportsmen of Pennsylvania, and to the many friends he made while in pursuit of his duties in wildlife conservation;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Pennsylvania Game Commission, in our behalf, the staff, and all true sportsmen, by this means express our sorrow over the loss of a Commissioner whom we esteemed as a true friend whose memory we shall ever honor and cherish; and we hereby tender to his bereaved family our heartfelt sympathies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, a copy sent to the Office of the Governor, and copies be forwarded to his widow and daughter.

Interesting reports of standing committees followed, to wit:

*Research and Planning.* This committee reported the holding of a Bobwhite Quail study project conference at Harrisburg on September 13, together with members of the Staff associated with the undertaking, representatives of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the State College Cooperative Research Unit, to review progress already made and to determine a future course of procedure.

*Predator Control.* This committee advised that staff employees are giving all field officers assistance and advice concerning the fall and winter predator control campaign and urged that a motion picture of the various trapping methods be made to create more interest in this program generally.

*Propagation Committee.* Because it was necessary, due to prohibitive prices, to reject bids for approximately 7,400 additional ringnecks for restocking, the committee strongly urged an expansion of the day-old chick program next spring. Last spring cooperators in this program reared considerably better than 50% of the more than 44,000 day-old chicks furnished them, and the committee believes the number of birds reared can be doubled, maybe tripled, next year if more clubs and individuals can be encouraged to cooperate.

Upon recommendation of the committee it was also decided to purchase a new 35,000 egg capacity incubator for the Jordan Farm in Lawrence County to replace the five-year old 18,000 egg capacity equipment now in use, so more day-old chicks can be made available to western cooperators. The old incubator, which has a capacity of 10,000 turkey eggs, will be transferred to the new wild turkey farm in Lycoming County. At the same time it was decided to acquire a new location for the Jordan Farm because the buildings and equipment there are generally in poor condition and the disease problem on the area is becoming a serious handicap due to the soil.

*Returning Service Men* were welcomed back to the organization. Robert D. Reed, Game Protector, Westmoreland County; Chester S. Siegel, Game Protector, Sullivan County; and Nicholas M. Ruha, Game Protector, Cambria County.

The Commission also passed a resolution expressing regret over the illness of Mr. W. C. Shaffer and extending its best wishes for his speedy recovery.

The Commission authorized disposition of considerable property which is no longer of value at the Juniata County Wildturkey farm. It includes buildings and outbuildings, brooders, etc.

*(Continued on Page 30)*

**A quail nest containing 26 eggs found by Ralph Bensing, member of the Cocalico Sportsmen's Association, while picking wild strawberries.**

# More Game and Better Hunting

A strip of wheat adjacent to cover is donated to game. This system does not provide the abundance of winter food and the excellent cover of special game plots, but it is worthwhile.

Jake has done noteworthy work in experimenting with the crossing of different strains of ringnecks in an attempt to produce the best possible game bird. It is no exaggeration to state that he has stocked more birds than any individual in the history of Pennsylvania conservation. He is now President of the State Game Breeders Association, and he is the perennial President of a State sportmen's organization composed of twenty member Clubs.

This is no commercial advertisement for the man, for actually he sells no birds to individuals. The Pennsylvania Game Commission is eager to purchase all that he is willing to part with year after year. This is not his livlihood; it is his hobby, and like the hobby of everyone, it costs money.

He conducts his farm along lines similar to that of Kunkel. The backbone of his program is a small refuge of 14 acres. It is located in a beautiful little basin. Approximately half of it is a stand of white pine planted some fifteen years ago. In the other half has been planted various kinds of game food. Fortunately there is a good spring in the center of these plantings. The winter concentration here of ringnecks, quail, rabbits and squirrels is astonishing.

Over 100 rabbits are trapped out of it each winter and distributed on open hunting land. The birds move out of their own accord in early spring, and they form the bulk of the brood stock which populates the surrounding land.

The main difference in the game management of these two farms is that the intensive feeding is done outside the refuge of the one farm and within the refuge of the other. It appears that the first will bring about better all season hunting and the second will carry over a little more brood stock for the next year.

When a great concentration of game exists in a confined area predation is bound to crop up. Like every game breeder to whom we ever talked, Jake is incensed with the idea of eliminating predators. Woe betide anything which casts a castigating eye on his birds, rabbits or squirrels.

A hawk and owl trap occupies a prominent place in the refuge. It is in the form of a high pole with rungs on it and it protrudes above everything. The top of the pole is a base for a steel trap. A wire leading from the trap is attached to the end of a long piece of bamboo, the mid-section of which is attached to the pole. The bamboo can rotate like a spinning wheel. On the other end of the bamboo is a white flag. When some bird of prey tries to perch on the pole, it steps into the trap. Held by the trap it then flutters to the ground and the end of the bamboo pole with the flag rises. This can be seen from the bedroom window of our friend. When the flag is flying something has been trapped. A certain number of goshawks, Cooper's hawks and sharpshins are eliminated each year. Now and then a great horned owl is taken at night. This is in keeping with the advocated policy of the Game Commission, and two of these species (horned owl and goshawk) figure in the Pennsylvania bounty system.

Jake has made certain observations. In order to determine how large a blacksnake must be to be able to devour the eggs of ringnecks he caught a number of assorted sizes, tamed them, then placed the eggs before them. Those less than four and one half feet in length could not swallow the eggs although they made the effort, and pictures were made of their unsuccessful attempts. These over five feet ate the eggs. It appears that five feet is the approximate drawing line between the capability and in-

*(Continued from page 9)*

capability of blacksnakes to feed on the eggs of ringneck pheasants.

Probably his most important discovery is the fact that ringnecks thrive well in the winter on good hay and a relatively small amount of corn. Last year he fed his brood birds five tons of alfalfa and some corn, whereas, he like all other breeders, previously fed all corn. This not only marked a great saving in cost but it also eliminated feather picking, often termed cannibalism. Apparently tail picking occurs when there is a diet deficiency of roughage. Jake Phillips of course could have withheld this knowledge as a professional secret and would have been well remunerated for it. However, he chose to make the information public in the hope of helping the conservation cause by reducing propagation costs and thus placing more game in the field.

During Aug. of '45 I found two nests of ringneck eggs which had been disturbed and ultimately destroyed, yet only one or two eggs in each nest were broken. The rest were scattered around the nest, some being as much as six feet distant. This was puzzling for it seemed logical that any animal, bird or reptile that would destroy a nest of eggs would eat them. When Jake was told of this his prompt reply was, "young skunks do that". In his opinion the skunk is the greatest enemy of ground nesting game and song birds.

He thinks ringnecks will roost in dense evergreens in preference to the ground. Here they are relatively safe from all enemies. It is apparent that food and cover increase the carrying capacity of a given area; the food supply is the more important as far as ringnecks are concerned and cover is of greater importance with quail and rabbits.

Examination of the crops of ringnecks shot in November indicate that corn and amber sorghum are the favored foods when insects are not available.

The carrying capacity of a given area is measured by the food supply and cover when they are at their lowest, and this period is the first three months of the year.

In the areas where ringnecks are not well established, there is a greater need for stockings which are predominantly hens, but where the birds are well established the only stockings necessary are some cocks in the shot out areas. It is the belief of this game breeder that 100 per cent of the hens should be stocked in August and September, and that 50 per cent of the cocks should be stocked at the same time. The remaining 50 per cent of the cocks should be held over the winter and planted where there is an apparent abundance of hens and a great scarcity of cocks.

It is a common practice to hold all birds over the winter and stock them in February and March, but Jake points out that if the birds are released at the age of twelve weeks they cost half as much as birds held over the winter and twice as many can be raised with the same equipment. He also states that he would rather have one hen which has spent the winter in the field than two released in the late winter. Some spring released hens do not acclimate themselves and

*(Continued on Page 31)*

# Farming To Help Wildlife*

By DR. P. F. ENGLISH

*(Professor of Wildlife Management, Department of Zoology and Entomology, The Pennsylvania State College)*

On farms with brushy fencerows many game, song and insectivorous birds nest and rear their young.

THERE are two kinds of farmers: First, those who practice clean farming, "bald-headed" farming, and; Secondly, those who allow brush to grow in their fencerows, gullies and around rock piles; "sloppy farming", to some people.

Let's analyze the two: First, "Clean farming." The story has been going the rounds for 50 years or more that clean farming is the only way to run your farm. The reasons given are:

1. Brushy fencerows harbor insects that destroy crops.

2. Brushy fencerows allow weeds to accumulate and seed the adjoining fields. This has been said of all brush areas, like those around unsightly stone piles or around gullies caused by erosion due to man's improper farming practices.

Most of the people advocating clean farming found these reasons good talking points, although evidence was largely lacking.

3. A third reason often given is that where you have fencerows you lose some land for cultivation and crops. This is true if you allow a fencerow to get out of control and creep out into a cultivated field. What the advocates of clean farming do not realize will be listed under "dirty farmers."

The farmer who allows brush to grow in his fencerows, around field borders, around stone piles and in gullies is blessed with things not found on "bald-headed" farms.

Second, "dirty farming." Who ever had the idea that *orderly* fencerows were a sign of "lazy" or "dirty" farming? Certainly native plants (brush) like panicled dogwoods, osier dogwoods, elderberries, wild roses, wild grapes, sumacs and others lend an esthetic appeal to many, which is never experienced on the clean farm.

Secondly, how many song birds do you find on farm fields where there are no fencerows? On farms with brushy fencerows you harbor countless beneficial song birds which use these sites for nesting and while they are rearing their young they feed them on insects which would destroy crops. The birds destroy literally tons of insects, a constant menace to crops. This benefit alone is worth many dollars to the farmer. Nature is helping him destroy pests. He does not have to use poisons as must sometimes be done by the "clean" farmer who has eliminated birds from the picture. Not only do fencerows and other brush coverts harbor beneficial song birds, they provide havens for quail, pheasants and cottontails, game animals hunted by most farmers. The brush, with judicious food patches, aid these animals and provide an additional crop on the farm for practically nothing. This crop furnishes wholesome recreation for the farmer, his family and his friends. The clean farmer for the most part does not enjoy this extra gift of nature.

Quail and pheasants destroy many insects and for the most part are decidedly beneficial to the farmer.

Fencerows often prevent wind erosion, the blowing of loose dry soils. They retard run-off of rain water and are aids in checking erosion. Brush provides cover for predacious insects that destroy harmful insects. Tolerance of fencerows and other brush cover does not interfere with good farming practices.

It is the opinion of the writer that in the past we have been too hasty in advocating a "clean up," not realizing the consequent loss that will result. Those of us who are interested in conservation, recreation, hunting and esthetic beauty can see that we should be more judicious in what we recommend. I do not advocate fencerows forty feet wide, nor do I believe the farm should be allowed to become overrun with brush. Neither do I recommend that we allow forty to one hundred-foot trees to grow in a fencerow. Trees are best grown in farm woodlots and should be encouraged in fencerows except where they will not interfere with the adjoining fields.

Farm woodlots are more valuable if grazing is prohibited. They furnish little actual forage to cattle and if left ungrazed may harbor a few grouse. They will grow a continual crop of trees if livestock is kept out, but if pastured no small trees can grow as they will be constantly grazed back.

When bare lands are stocked with game it does not remain; when farms with good cover are stocked, the chances of survival are improved 1000 per cent and there will be "seed" stock left to breed, rear young and produce wild animals for the future. Eventually, restocking will not need to be done so often when natural, suitable coverts are provided.

Let's not call a farmer whose fields are divided with fencerows, a dirty farmer. If he lets native brush grow about his rock piles and in old gullies, let's congratulate him. He is conservation-minded and we should provide him with signs to put on those coverts to educate the public that he likes song birds, quail, rabbits, pheasants and other game. The brushy coverts on his farm show him to be a conservationist of his crops and his lands which produce an extra crop, wildlife. Let's not condemn him. Let's give him a *citation!*

Unplanted fencerows offer nothing in the way of encouragement for either song birds or game.

* A contribution from The Pennsylvania Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit.

# PUBLIC INFORMATION RECOMMENDATIONS

## (Based Upon Suggestions Submitted to Commission By Its Employes and Others Interested as Approved with Amendments and Additions on Jan. 1, 1945)

### GENERAL POLICY

**Early History**—Educational work was heavily relied upon from the beginning of the Commission's program, but prior to 1924 its public relations work consisted principally of two widely distributed bulletins, some newspaper articles, and lectures and talks to organizations handled by the Administrative head with a limited amount of help. This same year the experimental exhibition of foundling mammals and birds at the Clearfield Refuge created widespread interest. Later traveling exhibits of wild mammals and birds covered most of the County Fairs and Scout Camps for a period of years.

**Visual Education**—In November 1924 the demand for educational talks and publicity became so great that the Commission established a Bureau of Research and Information. This Bureau immediately expanded the lecture program. Talks, with the collaboration of a series of slides on birds, were given to sportsmen's groups, Grange organizations, Scout troops, Civic clubs, etc. The slides stimulated interest in birds and gave rise to a demand for more literature on the subject. The Bureau distributed many new publications to the general public, school children and Boy Scout troops, and developed the early motion picture program. The latter has been much expanded during the past decade, and indications are that the visual education program must be further enlarged.

**Game News**—In July 1931 the "Monthly Service Bulletin," distributed only to the Commission's personnel, was discontinued and the "Pennsylvania Game News" was prepared in mimeographed form. The columns of the new venture were open to sportsmen and other outdoor-loving citizens. It was so favorably received that nine months later it was printed and placed on a subscription basis at $.50 per year. The circulation as of August 31, 1944 was over 30,000.

**Bulletins and Leaflets**—Subsequently, due to an ever increasing demand for literature on conservation, numerous educational bulletins and pamphlets were prepared and distributed in large numbers. They proved exceedingly popular.

**Posters, Etc.**—In 1937-38 with the aid of a W. P. A. Art Project, an extensive poster campaign was conducted. These posters proved very valuable in educating the public to the ideals and aims of the Commission. The press and the radio also have been extensively used as instruments for conservation education.

An unusual Environmental Wildlife Exhibit visited ten major cities and towns of the State in 1933, and was so highly patronized that a larger itinerary was made in 1934. These exhibits were later confined to the State Farm Show, Philadelphia, and Allegheny County.

Today the Commission uses all of these publicity methods. The press and radio, the motion picture, lectures, exhibits, posters, publications, the "Pennsylvania Game News," feature articles prepared for national and state periodicals are all doing their part to educate the general public to the value of wildlife Conservation. But much still remains to be done.

### A. PUBLICITY—"Game News," News Items, Radio

| Current Practices | Immediate Changes Recommended | Future Program Recommendations |
|---|---|---|
| All three phases are utilized as widely as possible with help currently available. No specific program of build-up publicity in the form of news releases or radio programs, is utilized, but essential "spot" news is being released as occasion demands. | None. | A full-time regularly employed individual, preferably a man with newspaper and feature writing training, would undoubtedly contribute much to the general publicity program for the future, and it is recommended that the Commission consider the desirability of so doing.<br><br>The Commission has in the past considered the wisdom of placing a copy of the "Game News" in the hands of every licensed hunter, the expense to be borne either by (a) paid advertising, (b) a slight increase in the license fee, or (c) earmarking a part of some revenue of the Commission and placing it in the Division of Public Information for this purpose. However, up to now it has not seen fit to tackle such an ambitious undertaking. Such a program if ever adopted should be contingent upon the issuance of the hunting licenses from Harrisburg, so the mailing lists would be current. (Both the cost and the doubtful value of "forced circulation" have been the principal deterring factors). |

### B. VISUAL EDUCATION—Motion Pictures, Bulletins and Posters, Exhibits

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Of the three phases mentioned, the motion picture program has been given the most emphasis since 1941, and only such educational bulletins, pamphlets and posters as are vitally needed have been prepared, due primarily to lack of manpower, printing facilities and materials. Exhibits were discontinued for the duration. | None. (In addition to keeping all phases moving progressively forward, much thought and planning is being devoted to improving some and continuing others as conditions warrant). | The motion picture policy should probably be more flexible. In the past the preference has been for activity reels portraying the many and varied programs of the Commission, and little material of a strictly entertainment character. It is believed that more good hunting and exceptional wildlife shots would be generally acceptable and prove a lot more educational.*<br><br>The Commission should now consider seriously the future use of well-narrated sound motion pictures. A general reel every few years would probably suffice. The use of sound projectors in the various divisions would help a great deal. (If desired, there are now available from the Federal Government and individual agencies sound pictures of a general conservation nature which could well be utilized to supplement some of our own programs).*<br><br>It is recommended that a full-time photographer with the necessary experience and ability be employed and the responsibility for this entire motion and still picture program placed in his hands, under the guidance of the Division Chief.*<br><br>It is recommended that a well illustrated series of life-histories of all game birds, mammals and fur-bearing animals be published primarily for school children, giving descriptions of them, their home-life, economic value, and means of attracting, feeding and protecting them. A volume on the "Birds of Pennsylvania," both technical and popular, should be published.<br><br>A "History of Conservation in Pennsylvania" should be prepared and published. (Much material has already been accumulated and is filed for future use).<br><br>The use of billboards emphasizing safety while hunting and other important phases of the Commission's program should be considered.<br><br>A specially designed educational exhibit truck for use mostly in the remote sections of the Commonwealth also merits serious consideration. (The Commission approved the purchase of such equipment several years ago at a cost not to exceed $6,000, which amount was carried in the budget for sometime then deleted due to wartime conditions). |

3. **PUBLIC RELATIONS—Lectures, Conservation Education in the Schools**

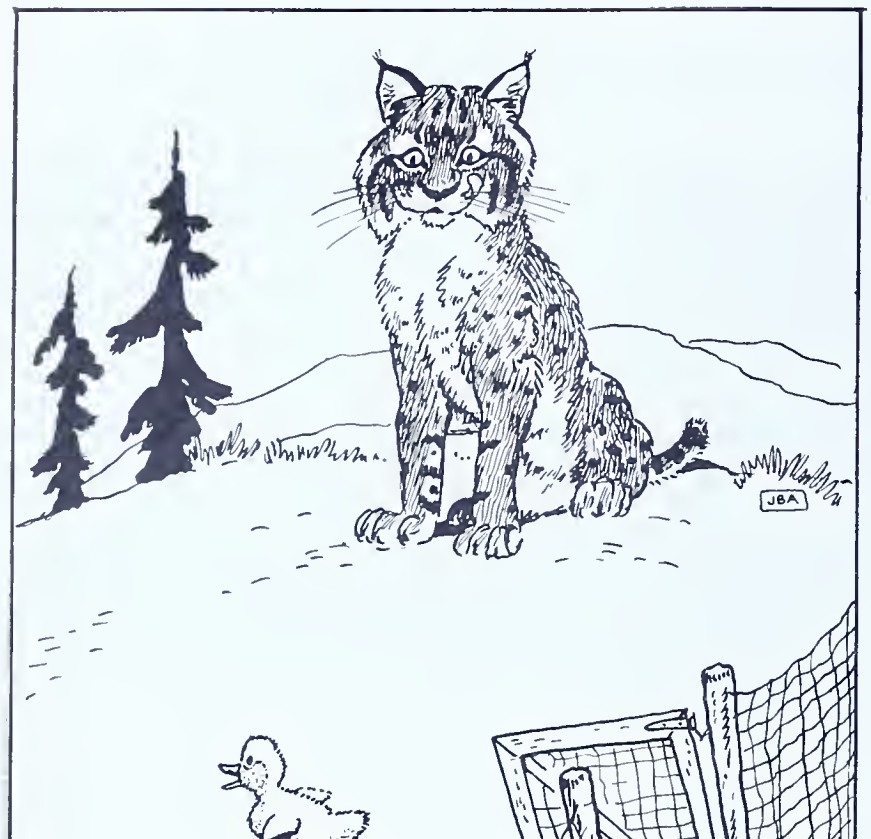
| Current Practices | Immediate Changes Recommended | Future Program Recommendations |
|---|---|---|
| Very little is being done except through the use of lectures and motion pictures in the schools, the distribution of various bulletins, posters, etc. (We are endeavoring to promote conservation education in the schools and hope ultimately to accomplish this objective). | None. It is recommended that we urge the Department of Public Instruction to call a conference very soon to discuss the matter of conservation education in the schools. Invitations should be submitted to the Women's and Garden Clubs, Boy Scouts, 4-H, FFA, Audubon Society, Friends of the Land, Pennsylvania State Forestry Association, Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Fish and Wildlife, and other conservation agencies in the Commonwealth. Later a committee should be appointed to study the program from all angles.<br>(Such a conference was held several months ago under the auspices of the Pennsylvania Federation of Women's Clubs. As a result the Pennsylvania State College is planning definitely to establish a conservation summer school for teachers next year.) | It is recommended that we expend every effort to establish a conservation summer school or outdoor laboratory, preferably in cooperation with other state conservation agencies and the Department of Public Instruction, and that the Commission Training School be offered for the purpose.<br>That our lecture staff be increased by two more lecturers, and that ultimately one be appointed for each Field Division, as the present demands upon the Supervisors and other officers are becoming burdensome.<br>(Instead of employing additional full-time lecturers the Commission recently appointed ten part-time lecturers).<br>Consideration should be given to employing someone at the Pymatuning Museum during the summer months to acquaint the thousands of persons who visit the refuge annually, especially school children, with the flora and fauna of the area. This employe could be used for general lecture work during the winter months.<br>In several states young people who have done outstanding work in the conservation field are being selected from each county, through the cooperation of school officials, and sent to a central conservation camp for a week or ten days at the expense of the Department. Such a program has possibilities and might be given consideration as part of the future plan. The Training School could well be used for such an undertaking. |

* Steps have already been taken to put these recommendations and suggestions into operation.

Photo by Maurice Brown.

**Observers at "Hawk Mountain" Sanctuary, near Drehersville, Schuylkill County, owned and patrolled by the Emergency Conservation Council, New York, for the protection of the birds of prey.**

# This Predator Legend




ments of an *Evening Bulletin* (advt.). I had so much rat poison on bits of bread in corners of the kitchen and laundry that the place wasn't safe. The cellar looked like a hardware store just before the trapping season opened. I caught one rat. BUT, early in spring a weasel put in an appearance and in one afternoon that blessed mustela cleaned out the entire colony. He went through their tunnels like a flame-thrower through the Nip caves on Okinawa and we never again had a rat on the place.

To paraphrase the title of the famous book, "Mutiny On The Bounty," let me instance a few facts on "Futility Of The Bounty." To show no partiality, let's begin with our own Commonwealth and thankfully remember that it happened sixty years ago. I quote Dr. W. T. Hornaday in "Wild Life Conservation":

"In 1885, the rural feeling against hawks and owls reached high water mark in Pennsylvania. In response to the demands of the farmers of the state, the Pennsylvania legislature enacted a law providing for a bounty of fifty cents each for the heads of hawks and owls. Naturally, great slaughter of these birds ensued. In two years, 180,000 scalps had been brought in and $90,000 had been paid out for them.

"The awakening came even more swiftly than the ornithologists expected. By the end of two years from the enactment of "the hawk law," the farmers found their fields and orchards thoroughly overrun by destructive mice, rats and insects; and again they went clamoring to the legislature, this time for the quick repeal of the law. With all possible haste this was brought about; but it was estimated by competent judges that in damage to their crops "the hawk law" cost the farmers of the State of Pennsylvania more than $2,000,000."

Quoting W. J. Hamilton in mss.: ". . . Ontario has a greater wolf and coyote population now (1939) than 10 years ago, but during that period 33,000 wolves were destroyed at a bounty cost of $500,000. Deer have increased in number and in range in Ontario at the same time that the wolves and coyotes were increasing. It seems likely that had the money spent on bounties been used to find out what the game and fur resources of Ontario need, and then meet that need, the province would have accomplished some good."

Again turning to Pennsylvania, the following reports indicate

*(Continued from page 5)*

that bounties do not control fox numbers: "Bounties were paid by the Pennsylvania Game Commission on 10,519 grey foxes in 1940, as against only 3,287 in 1918—22 years previously. The bounty has been in operation since 1915 . . . Red foxes, also, increased substantially in Pennsylvania despite the bounty. Payments started in 1917-18, when 2,790 reds were presented for claim. They were discontinued after payment had been made on 6,046 in 1927-28"—Seagears, 1944.

W. J. Hamilton, Jr., mammalogist of Cornell University, well sums up the question: "It has yet to be demonstrated that the reduction of predatory mammals through the use of bounties has had any material effect in increasing the game species . . . It seems unbelievable that states still consider bounties of any value in ridding themselves of supposedly injurious animals. With two centuries of bounty trials in this country and the almost complete failure of every attempt to control wild animals by this measure one would think the system would long since have been discarded."

Now, bear in mind that the facts and opinions above are not theories evolved by long-haired dreamers with the pallor of the biological laboratory blanching their cheeks. They are the conclusions of alert, hard-working, expertly-trained field men with much more active experience than the average hunter or agriculturist.

Do I hear a comeback in the distance, something like this: "So-o, all the foxes, weasels and hawks are little angels, eh? Wouldn't harm a thing? Well, are there ANY animals who might SOMETIMES do just a teeny weeny bit of damage??"

Since he knows so many answers, I will again bring Mr. Hamilton forward: "Foxes, skunks and weasels occasionally raid hen houses, but their destruction of poultry is insignificant compared to that of the rat. One rat killed 190 chicks in a single night; rats ate legs off 40 young black ducks on a game farm and a single rat destroyed, in three nights, 120 pheasant chicks . . . It has been estimated, and probably very conservatively, that an annual loss of $200,000,000 to U. S. agriculture and forestry is occasioned by pocket gophers, ground squirrels, field mice, cottontails, jack rabbits, prairie dogs, cotton rats, porcupines, woodchucks, moles and mountain beavers . . ." These latter are no relation, by the way, to our interesting dam-builders, but are small rodents of the northwest, also called sewellels.

Charles J. Brill, Superintendent, Oklahoma State Game Farm, says, in *Outdoor Life* for September 1933: "After awarding the crown to the hunting house cat as king of quail destroyers we . . . submit what commonly is known as the red chicken snake as the prince of quail predators, at least in the Southwest and South, the regions which produce about nine-tenths of the virgin quail hunting of the United States." This snake, a subspecies of our pilot blacksnake, is a four to six foot reptile of yellowish grey, boldly blotched with dark brown.

*(Continued on Page 24)*

# MOUNTAIN MUSIC

*Editor's Note: In order to let the other ellow know about some sports not undertood by all, the Game News has asked Comnander Newbold Ely to write a few notes ach month on hounds and the chase.*

The following are from Lieutenant Clyde Deaton's article in Mountain Music, describng an Oklahoma wolf hunt.

There had been a rain in the afternoon, ust enough to make scenting conditions deal. Wild Cat Hill was as slick as owl rease as the blue clay 'oozed' through the reads. The hickories had turned a beautiul yellow. A fox squirrel scampered across he road, headed for his selected den tree, his busy tail flicked saucily.

As we drove down the sandy road, the ountry became more open, bunch grass ould be seen on both sides of the road—the vhite-faced cattle were beginning to bed lown, selecting the road for their bed ground. t drains more rapidly and the Herefords are not 'King of the Osage Hills' for nothing.

We headed down the road, going south, came to a cow trail, and headed up it to the East. As we followed this trail it wound around a hill and gradually we inclined to he North. Off to our left and up ahead Fly 'struck'. At first the music was a slow bawl, but shortly it turned to a 'chop'. "Turn 'em loose" came from Bill.

Eight spotted hounds took off like a dirty shirt on wash day. They knew, as did Bill, that when Fly struck, some wolf had been prowling the country-side. Sooner than a mountaineer can down a drink of 'Mountain Dew' these eight Walkers, one by one, put in and they all joined in the singing of the chorus. They were all running for the front-end—each Walker trying to sit in the driver's seat. Soon Bawly had the lead, that bawl of his echoing and re-echoing up and down the canyon. Cry Baby was crying as if her heart would break, straining every muscle and nerve in her body, in a vain attempt to lead the pack.

Drum could be heard rolling out that deep melodious music that gave him his name. He was slightly slower than some of the younger dogs, but wasn't a slow dog in any pack.

Eagle's turkey mouth could be heard as his vocal chords began to relax. He was making his bid for the front seat. Major, not to be outdone, was making an heroic effort to steer the ship. His wild goose mouth could be heard, telling all hounds that he was in the race—and telling Bill that his feed hadn't been wasted.

Jake's tenor came clearly across the canyon as the pack took off across the hill to the North, FDR's chop was there, and though he was a young hound, only two years old, he had a good head, plenty of guts, and stamina to spare.

The pack went out of hearing to the North—an old well pumping on the prairie had drowned them out. Suddenly, from out of the silence of the night I heard them coming back. I heard a new mouth, a 'fast chop', and he was sitting in the driver's seat, "Bill, which one is that? The one with the chop mouth? Sounds like Big Boy, but I thought you wrote me that he was dead."

"He is, but that's one of his pups. One of that litter you gave me when you volunteered. He's just past two, but one of the best I've got."

"So the Oklahoma Kid is a wolf dog?" I mused, remembering the lumbering, ungainly pup I had given Bill. "Just like his dad, too. The longer the race the faster the chop, I'll bet."

"That's right. And the faster the race the better he likes it. From now on there's only one dog that can touch him, his sister, Anne of Soonerland. That's her with that 'goat horn' type mouth. Hear it?" There they came down the hillside, split the water in the canyon wide open, and drove that wolf straight up the hill to the South. Those eight Walkers were so well packed that a GI blanket could have covered the lot. They were running shoulder to shoulder and nose to tail. Fly, coming about sixty yards behind, was trying but had been in too many races to be an engineer on this train.

When the pack hit the hill-top that wise canine of the cattle country cut back to the West, then to the North—running the pack through the herd of cattle we had seen in the early evening. He lived not only by his heels and heart, but also by his head.

*(Continued on Page 31)*

# ★ ★ ★ CURRENT TOPICS ★ ★ ★

## NEW COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER B. K. WILLIAMS

**The appointment of B. K. Williams of East Stroudsburg on October 8, 1945 brings into the Commission a man who has been an active conservationist for many years.**

**Although being owner of the B. K. Williams Company keeps him busy, the new Commissioner has found time to be a lively participant in the Monroe-Pike Sportsmen's Association.**

**Because he has always been an outdoor enthusiast and an ardent hunter, Commissioner Williams is thoroughly familiar with the problems of sportsmen and the ideals of conservation.**

**Commissioner Williams was appointed to replace Dr. Carl B. Rosenkrans who drowned on August 23, 1945 while on a fishing trip.**

## Bucks County Sets Pheasant Record

It is not expensive to raise pheasants from day-old chicks. This was clearly demonstrated in Bucks County recently where a Farm-Game Cooperator raised Ringnecks to the age of ten (10) weeks at a cost of only twenty-seven cents (27c) a bird. Of 247 birds reared to that age, the total cost was $67.18. This is indeed a record for economy, particularly when one considers that the commercial value of a 10-week-old pheasant is about five times the above figure.

To get down to the facts, the Game Commission shipped 396 day-old pheasant chicks to a Bucks County Cooperator in June 1945. At a cost of $67.18 for mesh wire for pens and feed for the birds, he raised 247 pheasants to ten (10) weeks of age. The cost does not include equipment, except woven wire, nor does it include electric current for the brooder stove. Nevertheless, it has been shown that, with proper equipment and good care, pheasants can be raised from day-old chicks to the age of ten (10) weeks at the low cost of twenty-seven cents (27c) each.

Another Cooperator on a Farm-Game project in Bucks County had even better success. He obtained 500 day-old pheasant chicks from the Commission in June 1945, and succeeded in raising 376 to six (6) weeks of age, at a cost for feed of $18.60, or five cents (5c) a bird.

These two cases are splendid examples of what can be done with day-old chicks, not alone from a financial standpoint, but also to the extent of improving pheasant hunting in the area in which the birds were raised. If Pennsylvania sportsmen will get solidly behind the day-old pheasant chick program, it is bound to pay big dividends in better bird hunting, as these pheasants are released in the favorite hunting grounds of the sportsmen's groups responsible for raising them, provided, of course, the lands are open to public hunting.

## WHICH TYPE ARE YOU?

According to Johnny Mock, outdoors editor for the *Pittsburgh Press,* there are three outstanding types of sportsmen.

First there is the sportsman who is an active and dependable club member, always willing to cooperate to the best of his ability and to suggest and promote new ideas. The second is the fellow who pays his club dues but stays in the background, does not attend meetings, never suggests anything and feels that when he has paid his two dollars he has done his part. And then there is the sportsman—at least that's what he calls himself—who does not belong to any club, has no respect for the game laws or his fellow sportsman and no consideration for the farmer on whose land he hunts.

The first, although willing to do what he can, is of the minority because he lacks the cooperation of others. The second is a weak sister because even though he knows what is right he lacks the gumption to assert himself for fear of losing business or social prestige. The third is an unpleasant fellow who, if he cannot be taught a more sportsmanlike attitude, should be ostracized by his fellow sportsmen and refused permission to hunt by landowners.

It is high time all sportsmen take inventory of themselves, realize in which class they belong, and if they are not in Class 1, try to improve their sportsmanship.

"In union there is strength." A strong, united effort can accomplish in a short time what a few individuals would spend years of bitter fighting to achieve.

Let's all be Class 1 sportsmen, and let's pull together!

---

"The foliage and weed growth are very heavy, affording plenty of food and cover for all kinds of game. Pheasants are showing up very good since the farmers are cutting corn and it looks as though they are going to be very plentiful. Rabbits are reported spotty. Squirrels are plentiful. There are lots of acorns, but not many shellbarks."—Game Protector Leo E. Bushman, Gettysburg, September 1945.

---

**On October 8 to 13 the Sportsmen's Beagle Club of West Chester held its 29th Annual Field Trial on its running grounds near Marshallton with 258 entries in 6 classes. Canine contestants came from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, Indiana, Ohio, New York, West Virginia, Virginia, Tennessee and Massachusetts. It was a gala affair and we wish we had received a full account of it before we were forced to close out this issue. We did receive the picture at the left showing the winners in the 13-inch all age dog event and that of some of the gallery on the opposite page, both by our photographer W. L. R. Drake. In the photo at the lefet are Step-Ahead-Rusty with his owner M. D. Cooley, Indianapolis, Ind.; Bairs-Jackey and owner Harry Campbell, Robesonia, Pa.; Parke Gray Ladd and owner Frank Dunn, Downingtown, Pa.; Brunos Jackey Boy and owner Joseph Freed, Reading, Pa.; and Little Ripely of Birch Creek and his owner L. T. Daubert, Walnutport, Pa. Standing are Judges Mark Roberts, Walnutport and Frank O'Dell, Grand Rapids, Michigan.**

## SOIL CONSERVATION MOVIE

William Vogt, Chief of the Conservation section of the Pan-American Union, who for the past several years has done research in Latin-American countries, recently returned from an extended trip to Hollywood. Purpose of his visit there was to interest the movie colony in conservation. Upshot of the visit was that he wrote a script which was accepted and for which the necessary costs of production were underwritten.

Pictures of soil erosion, depleted forests and other land wastes are now being taken from Mexico to Chile. Some of the shots are being made in this country showing the more serious aspects of our own erosion.

---

## Bounty on Wolves and Coyotes

A number of Bradford county sheep growers have sustained considerable damage to their flocks from timber wolves and coyotes, animals on which the State of Pennsylvania does not pay bounty.

The Directors of the Bradford County Cooperative Sheep & Wool Growers' Association voted to offer a bounty of *$10.00 per head* for any timber wolf or coyote *killed in Bradford County* between now and July 1, 1946. Condition—The animal must be taken to Mr. I. M. Macafee, rd. Milan, Pa., for identification and he will then authorize payment.

While the number of these animals is not too large, they are rapidly increasing, and unless something is done to control them, sheep men will suffer more extensive damages. Also it is felt that if we prove to the state that we have these animals in the county and that they are a detriment to the farmers, the state will then offer a bounty for killing them.

In case you are no hunter yourself, please give this information to people in your section who are hunters and who may be interested in killing these animals for the bounty offered.

(Extract from Bradford County Coop. Sheep & Wool Growers' Assn., C. V. Baker, Secretary, August 9, 1945, Towanda, Pa.)

## How to Dress 'Em, Ship 'Em, and Cook 'Em!

In more than forty illustrated pages the Remington Arms Company is producing a booklet which every hunter should own. Its title "How to Dress, Ship and Cook Wild Game" tells the story of its contents.

1. For transporting game, 25 pounds of dry ice will keep 75 pounds of well-packed game frozen for five days or longer under normal conditions.

2. Plucking of ducks can be made much easier if the ducks are first dipped in a mixture of hot water and melted paraffin.

3. Because orange sauces greatly enhance the flavor of wild game, it is a good idea to use orange juice instead of water during the cooking.

4. A cloth dipped in scalding water will quickly wipe away stray bits of fur from wild meat.

There are many others, all contributing to the purpose of the booklet . . . elimination of waste of game and a more complete enjoyment of it.

Copies will soon be available and may be obtained by sending 10c to cover handling and mailing, to Remington Arms Company, Inc., Dept. CB, Bridgeport 2, Connecticut.

---

*The American Legion* Magazine asked quite a number of returning veterans what was their favorite form of recreation. Almost seventy out of every hundred said, "I want to go HUNTING!" Almost sixty-two out of every hundred said, "Next to hunting FISHING is my choice!"

Here's the score on that survey, percentage-wise:

Hunting, 69.33%; Fishing, 61.87%; Swimming, 56.04%; Baseball, 43.01%; Football, 32.29%; Camping, 31.61%; Motorboating, 29.58%; Trap or Target Shooting, 26.87%; Skating, 26.05%; Golf, 22.52%; Hiking, 19.54%; Bicycling, 15.47%; Flying, 14.52%; Sailing, 11.26%; Skiing, 9.36%; Badminton, 5.97; Archery, 4.61%; Basketball, 4.21%; Horseback Riding, 2.31%.

**Roscoe Ball, of Cambridge Springs, photographed the above deer which, while standing on its hind legs browsing in the deep snow, became lodged in a crotch and was unable to extricate itself.**

## WELL WORTH READING

*Outdoor Life* has recently issued a brochure titled "Is Sport Worth It?" It is well worth reading. The survey made by that magazine indicates that in the next few post-war years more than 26,000,000 people will be hunting and fishing . . . and that their annual expenditures in these two sports will be approximately $4,025,485,000!

To receive a copy of this most interesting brochure write to B. Ray Keefer, Advertising Director, *Outdoor Life,* 353 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, New York.

---

## NEW EQUIPMENT

The "Mossberg GI" rifle, a .22 caliber, 7-shot bolt action, clip repeater Model 44 US, is now available to civilians. Named in honor of the world's best fighting man, this rifle was used by the U. S. Army and Navy for training and marksmanship instruction.

Standard on the "Mossberg GI" New—No. S 100 Receiver sight, with ½" micro "click" adjustments for windage and elevation. The rifle was originally designed for and supplied to the U. S. War Department by O. F. Mossberg and Sons, Inc., New Haven 5, Conn.

---

The new Coleman "Pocket" stove is an item that hunters will want to own. It is compact, amazingly efficient and as easy to carry as a quart size can of food. Only 8½ inches high and 4½ inches in diameter, it burns any kind of gasoline and is ready in minutes for quick-cooking action. The telescoping case makes two handy cooking utensils. A pictorial folder showing some of the many uses for this "wonder stove" are now in preparation and will be sent as soon as available to anyone requesting one. Write to the Coleman Co., Inc., Dept. 264S, Wichita 1, Kansas, for your copy.

# TO JOHNNY APPLESEED-- By HARRY B. HOSTETTER

W. L. R. Drake.
Hickory nuts.

These few words are mainly written to supplement an article wherein Ralph Sides in his "Let's Go Outdoors" column of the *Lancaster New Era* of October 25, 1945 presented some of this writer's thoughts, mentioned at a recent meeting of outdoorsmen.

There is no thought of making it a technical presentation or a horticultural masterpiece. Your pet bird feeding plant or tree may not be included but the main thing sought is an army of Appleseed Johnnies! Contact farm agents, botanists, bird lovers, libraries, nurseries, forestry departments, etc., in your locality. Soils, altitudes, general conditions vary so much that to list materials liking acid or alkaline soils, sun or shade, etc. would be impossible. There are State and Federal bulletins, textbooks and many other sources of information so I will list only a few subjects. If a bird-food-producing tree, shrub or vine grows in your own yard or nearby woods you can use such food and be a successful Johnny Appleseed. Here are a few:

| SHRUBS | VINES | TREES |
|---|---|---|
| Chokeberry | Virginia creepers | Hawthorn |
| *Dogwoods | Honeysuckle | Crabapple |
| Japanese barberry | Bittersweet | Mulberry |
| *Honeysuckles | Grape | *Spruces |
| Elder | | *Pines |
| Snowberry | | Hemlock |
| Coralberry | | Cherries |
| *Viburnums | | Mountain Ash |
| Firethorn | | Elms |
| *Privets | | Maples |
| | | Dogwood |
| | | *Oaks |
| | | Shagbark |
| | | *Chestnuts |

* Several varieties.

In addition to furnishing food, many things planted for this purpose will furnish nesting facilities, protection from predators and very importantly, help prevent soil erosion which is one of our great national problems.

As birds eat the berries and then drop seeds in new localities, you, Mr. Johnny, will have started unending results. Squirrels will bury acorns from *your* trees. You may not see the children or grandchildren of your efforts but you will derive great satisfaction in seeing your own "children" growing up. Today I can look at hundreds of oaks that I planted over the past twenty years—some with butts six and eight inches in diameter and some forty feet tall.

Two outstanding shrubs for our use are the Japanese barberry and the several varieties of privet. They grow easily from seed in most any soil or exposure, are practically immune from insect and disease attacks and most yards contain one or more. The Japanese barberry furnishes excellent and protected nesting and is not too popular with browsing animals. However, their greatest value is that most birds don't like the seeds of either one! But the real value is that after dogwoods, crabapples and other favorites are stripped of food; after wind, rain and snow have beaten down weeds or hidden most other foods, these two "desperation foods" will be there, above snows, to furnish a vital meal. The common barberry should *never* be planted because it is a host plant for the wheat rust.

Some nuts or berries germinate more successfully if stored over winter by one of several methods. Some are raised from hardwood or soft wood cuttings, some by layering, some seedlings can be collected and transplanted but all this is by-passed. Beat our friends, the squirrels, to the nuts and pick berries before the birds. Stick a handful in your pocket before starting on a hike or hunt and plant, as you go, in appropriate places.

We might even look forward to the day when Game or Conservation Commissions, Forestry Departments and similar groups will have seeds for distribution, collected from the many public nurseries. Might we even look forward some time to some free seeds with each hunter's license?

Let us look forward to the time when our wildlife feeding is less segregated, for this may be the start of a dangerous cycle of three stages. Segregated food segregates wildlife and then predators form the third segregation. Then we have feathers on the forest floors and in our fields!

May we salute a new generation—Johnny Appleseeds?

# THE RIFLED SLUG

"A heavy nose, a light heel and plenty push behind it." This was the American Indian's idea of a projectile in the "bow and arrow" days.

It still holds good today, in a modern world when some things are done by pushing a button. Some things! But not the job of knocking down, for keeps, deer, bears, cougars and other species of hardy game.

So the Remington Arms Company, Inc., took a page from the Indian's book and produced, both at the home plant and at the Peters Cartridge Division, a rifled slug . . . designed along the Indian's idea "a heavy nose, a light heel and plenty push behind it."

Deer hunters have found the rifled slug load is a most effective cartridge at ranges up to and beyond fifty yards.

With a right-hand pitch, one turn in 12", the Remington-Peters organization produces these "shotgun cartridges" in four gauges. Muzzle velocities and trajectories are quoted below

The number of grooves and lands of the four types are as follows:

| | *12 Gauge* | *16 Gauge* | *20 Gauge* | *410 Gauge* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of lands | 14 | 13 | 13 | 11 |
| Number of grooves | 14 | 13 | 13 | 11 |
| Width of grooves | .083 | .078 | .068 | .056 |
| Depth of grooves | .025 | .029 | .029 | .023 |
| Width of lands | .078 | .078 | .078 | .058 |

"The rifled slug," said Henry P. Davis, of Remington's public relations division, "is approximately twice as accurate as the solid ball cartridge.

"The purpose of the rifling is to guide the projectile through the bore and choke and to reduce the area of contact. This, together with the deep cavity, permits safe passage through the choke.

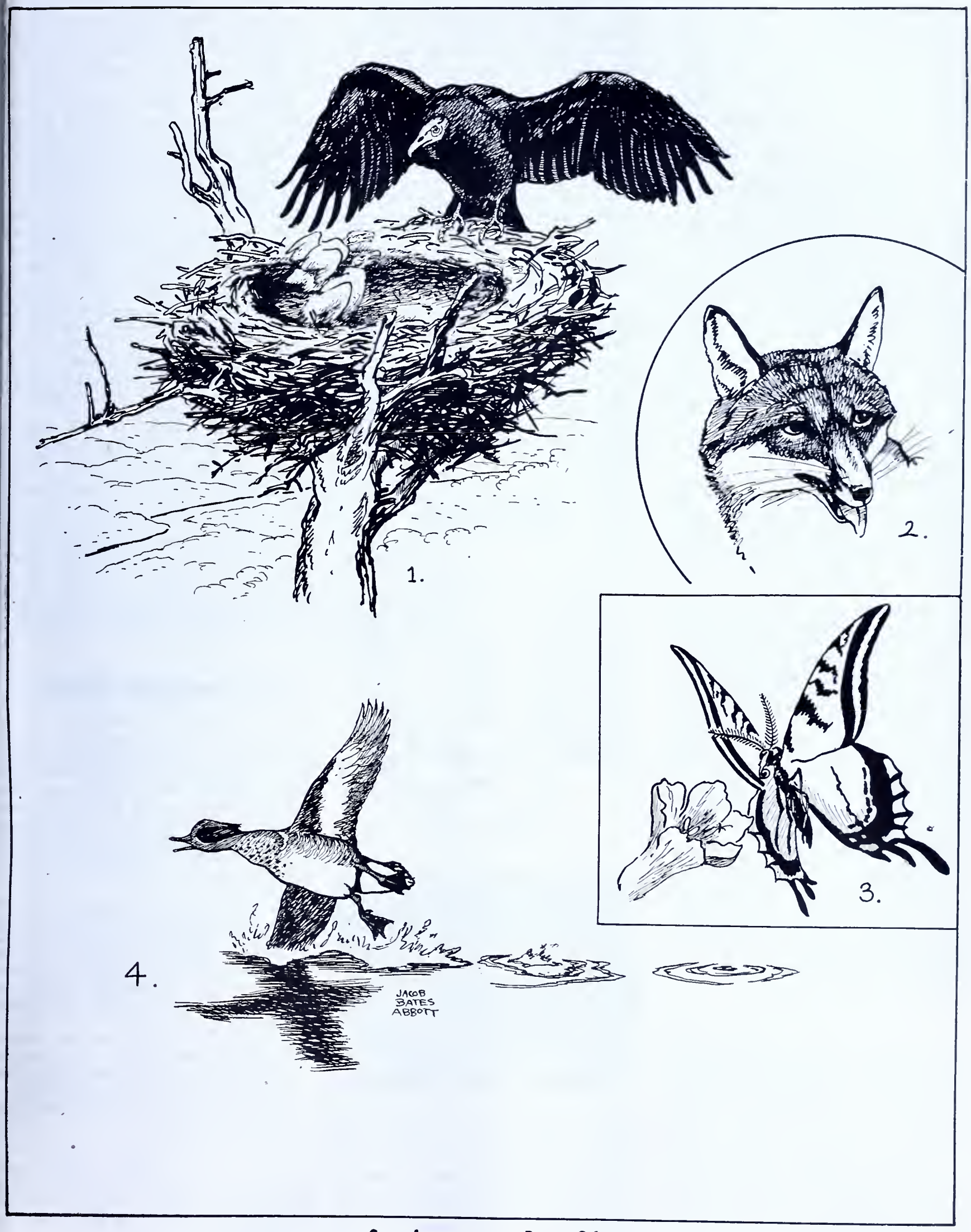
"The heavy nose gives the slug that smash-bang shocking power. The hollow base of the slug makes it lighter at the rear end, thereby providing the 'feather on the arrow' which makes for accuracy. The 'push behind it' is plenty.

"Thus," he concluded, "the white man takes a page from the red man's book and polishes it up to fit present conditions and modern methods. *But the Indians had the same idea!*" he admitted.

| *Gauge* | *Weight of Slug Grs.* | *Muzzle Velocity* | *Velocity at 100 yards* | *Energy Muzzle* | *Energy at 100 yards* | *Mid-Range Trajectory in inches 50* | *Mid-Range Trajectory in inches 100 yds.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12 | 415 | 1470 | 1122 | 1995 | 1165 | 0.58 | 2.65 |
| 16 | 350 | 1436 | 1123 | 1600 | 945 | 0.62 | 2.9 |
| 20 | 282 | 1410 | 1083 | 1245 | 735 | 0.67 | 3.0 |
| 410 | 96 | 1470 | 1030 | 461 | 226 | 0.64 | 3.0 |

Here's another club house, owned by the Millersburg Gun and Conservation Club.

# WELL WHAT'S WRONG?




See Answers on Page 24

## LOOK BEFORE YOU SHOOT

"An incident occurred in the deer woods a few years ago I believe every hunter would like to know about. This may not be of too great importance to experienced hunters who look things over thoroughly, though quickly, before firing away, but to beginners who are subject to 'buck fever' and who shoot at uncertain objects. Here is my story; it's a true one.

"My cousin took me with him one day to do a little deer hunting as he knows I love the woods in all its seasons. I don't hunt but that didn't matter; he wanted company. And thank God I wasn't hunting that day. I might have been minus one husky cousin, with a lot of explaining to do for myself.

"As we were walking along he decided to send me ahead on an open cut through the woods while he veered off to my left. After walking about ten minutes I could have sworn I saw a deer going away from me through a low, thin growth of trees about a hundred yards distant. I took it for granted the white object down there was the flag of a deer, and my blood began running wild in me as did my imagination. As I look back at it most any small shrub or tree might have resembled antlers, and who's to say I wouldn't have fired at it?

"Feeling safe in my bright red sweater I took a chance and had to satisfy my wild curiosity so I headed into the growth of trees hoping to trail the deer or at least locate its footprints. As I approached the object its motion stopped and the flag disappeared. In its place appeared my cousin's face.

"Though he had on the usual hunter's red cap and jacket he blended almost perfectly with the brown stems and a few remaining leaves of the trees around him. I then discovered my mistake when he again walked away from me. The flag I'd been so sure I saw was nothing more than the celluloid license tag holder in the middle of his back. This shiny surface caught and reflected what light there was that late in the day, and actually looked like a white bobbing tail of a deer against the dark background of trees. Let me tell you it was no pleasure for me to picture myself taking a shot at that deer once I saw my mistake.

"I'd like to herewith suggest that the new license tags be made of some waterproof, dull or matte surfaced material such as roughened lamicoid, and that the number be punched out instead of printed on, with holes to sew through, thereby eliminating the need of such shiny holders as are now so common."—Walford Larson, Titusville Sportsmen's Club, Titusville.

---

"I saw a note in some magazine about the age of ammunition and how it would function, so I took my Grandfather's old musket and a very few rounds of the old Civil War ammunition to make an experiment.

"I set up a big block, poked the old load down the barrel, primed the tube, put an old cap on, took aim and fired. It went off with a bang and smoke. There wasn't much recoil or much penetration, but it seemed to rock the block as if it struck quite forcibly."—Floyd C. Mead, Moscow.

## FAN MAIL

The "Hamhead Hogg" series created interest on its first appearance in September. Messrs. Orr and Rodkey, the originators, recently received the following letter. We hope it is the forerunner of many more ideas.

"Presenting 'Hamhead Hogg' is a splendid idea. Could Hamhead leave his dog at home and go deer hunting?

"Our problem is, we lady hunters have trouble with 'Hoggs' stealing our deer after they are killed.

"First, an Allegheny man put his tag on my deer while pretending to help me out. He was drinking, so he got away with it.

"Second, our daughter had hers stolen when a man who lives on Friendship Street, N. Side, wouldn't let a kid beat him to a kill. We couldn't talk him out of it, as he was only up for one day and couldn't go home without meat.

"Third, my sister-in-law had hers taken off the car as we were eating our evening meal in Marionville.

"Aren't we women hunters entitled to the game we kill? Are we to stay out of the woods? Thought our experience might give you an idea."—Mrs. N. C. Keener, 140 Orchard Ave., Butler, Pa.

## "HAMHEAD HOG"

"I got one, too."

---

STOLEN: One Iver-Johnson 22-Caliber Target pistol and three hundred dollars worth of flies, fly rods and other fishing paraphernalia from Joe Schuldaski, No. 3 Meyers Lane, Kingston, Pa. This pistol, No. 7881, was registered at Luzerne County Courthouse every year.

---

## ANSWERS TO WHAT'S WRONG

**1. Turkey vultures nest on the ground, in rocky caves, hollow logs or under thick briar tangles.**

**2. The pupils of foxes' eyes are eliptical, like a cat's, not round like a dog's.**

**3. Butterflies do not have feathered antennae; these belong to moths.**

**4. A green-winged teal does not paddle along the surface of the water to take off as do bluebills, goldeneyes and canvasbacks. Teals rise straight upward.**

## DON'TS FOR DEER HUNTERS

Don't pack a deer out of the woods on your back. Don't open a deer like a bed sheet for the simple task of gutting it. Keep the opening small, and sew it shut again with cord. This keeps dirt and flies out.

Another thing. Don't cut the throat unless you happen to pull a spine or head shot where there is no chance for the deer to bleed properly. In this case, stick the deer carefully, as you would a hog, and lay the carcass at a slant, head down, so it will drain. But if you have shot the quarry anywhere in the heart or lung cavity, or even farther back, throat cutting is unnecessary. Almost certainly your bullet will have ruptured an artery somewhere, and the animal will be bled completely inside, as you'll find when you open it. Ninety per cent of the time, cutting the throat from ear to ear only ruins a cape you might have liked for mounting.

Whatever you do, *DON'T* wash out the cavity. I know of no surer way to cause a deer to sour and spoil. Let the blood dry and seal the torn meat.

Finally, add a couple of wool sacks to your hunting outfit. They add little bulk or weight, yet they will solve your problem when the day comes that you down a deer you can't pack out by any of these methods. Simply clean the deer, hang it, slide the sack up over the hung carcass and tie the neck of the sack securely about the holding rope. That done, you can sit back and relax. Such sacks are porous and will let the air circulate, yet will keep blow flies, yellow jackets, and such at a distance. The meat for which you've worked so hard is safe.

---

## THIS PREDATOR LEGEND

*(Continued from page 18)*

It looks as if certain rodents and certain snakes come closer to being vermin than most beasts—always excepting certain insects. But "harmless" snakes have their vociferous champions and the late Raymond Ditmars and the contemporary Clifford Pope have plenty to say in favor of the venomous variety. Whether mosquitos have a champion (other than a screen manufacturer) is doubtful.

But probably in the great structure of Nature's total scheme, each beastie, no matter how noxious to us, had its sphere of beneficial influence. We have disturbed conditions that untold centuries were spent in creating, and history has proven that we do not excell as "controllers" of resources or wildlife.

I have never seen a mountain lion, timber wolf or bobcat alive and wild in its natural habitat and, personally, I would give up eating lamb for a year for such a sight.

As a matter of fact, for the last two years I have had to anyway.

---

There is no group of fishes officially bearing the name "sardine." The United States herring, the menhaden and the European pilchard are the small fishes which generally fill sardine cans.

## TONY GOES DEER HUNTING

My name she's a Tony.
My friends a name Joe.
He's like to go hunting,
So for some deers we a go.

He's come a to my house,
Bout five a one morn;
He's race a da motor,
He's a blow a da horn.

He's a yell a, Hey Tony,
Hurry up with da gun;
Dis hunting for deers,
She's a lots a fun.

I'm a hurry right out,
And I look on da seat.
He's got on a red cap,
And red socks on da feet.

I say what's a mat,
You wear a red cap.
He say, "I no want to,
Get shot by some sap."

We go by da woods.
We find a da trail.
He say she's a deer,
I no see hide, or tail.

We go a long time,
And soon we a see.
He's peek out of da bush,
Behind a big tree.

He's got a da horn,
A big rack a one.
So I watch a Joe,
As he raise a da gun.

The gun she's a wobble,
And Joe's he's a shake.
I no know what's the matter,
I think maybe, earthquake.

The deer she's a stand there,
Jost nice lik you please;
But, before Joe shoots a da gun,
She's a let out a sneeze.

The deer she's a go,
And Joe he's a shoot.
I say, "Whats a mat,
Your feet freeze in da boot?"

He say, "You know Tony,
The trigger I squeeze,
But da guns a no shoot,
Till da deer she's a sneeze."

And when she's a sneeze,
Away she's a go.
You say, "Why I miss 'Im?"
I sure I don't know.

Now dis hunting business,
She's a lots of a fun,
But when out a with Joe,
NOW, I shoot a da gun.

By Harry C. Kuhns.

## LOST, STRAYED OR STOLEN

H. J. Tritschler, Jr., 644 Bebel St., Pittsburgh 10, reports the loss of a young liver and white pointer in the vicinity of Pleasant Unity, near Greensburg, on the opening day of small game season.

Mr. Tritchler's name plate and the dog's license are attached to the animal's collar.

Any information leading to the recovery of this dog will be very much appreciated.

## DEER KILL—1940-1944 Inclusive

| Counties | 1940 Antlered | 1940 Antlerless | 1941 Antlered | 1942 Antlered | 1943 Antlered | 1943 Antlerless | 1944 Antlered |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Adams | 89 | 521 | 39 | 79 | 80 | ..... | 96 |
| Allegheny | 23 | 67 | 9 | 8 | 4 | ..... | 12 |
| Armstrong | 148 | 446 | 22 | 66 | 37 | ..... | 94 |
| Beaver | 28 | 64 | 7 | 14 | 11 | ..... | 23 |
| Bedford | 639 | 1,816 | 252 | 579 | 447 | ..... | 544 |
| Berks | 100 | 680 | 27 | 103 | 114 | ..... | 178 |
| Blair | 569 | 1,775 | 185 | 359 | 254 | ..... | 389 |
| Bradford | 640 | 2,705 | 289 | 533 | 470 | ..... | 611 |
| Bucks | 55 | 150 | 32 | 50 | 32 | ..... | 70 |
| Butler | 155 | 444 | 36 | 93 | 45 | ..... | 102 |
| Cambria | 389 | 1,967 | 121 | 178 | 122 | ..... | 165 |
| Cameron | 1,512 | 5,768 | 742 | 1,141 | 722 | 1,319 | 625 |
| Carbon | 501 | 1,737 | 175 | 285 | 208 | ..... | 292 |
| Centre | 2,357 | 7,800 | 1,230 | 1,939 | 1,288 | ..... | 1,506 |
| Chester | 15 | 31 | 3 | 23 | 19 | ..... | 42 |
| Clarion | 346 | 1,020 | 108 | 259 | 176 | ..... | 259 |
| Clearfield | 1,711 | 5,978 | 788 | 1,710 | 894 | ..... | 1,133 |
| Clinton | 1,995 | 5,798 | 1,292 | 2,036 | 1,314 | ..... | 1,240 |
| Columbia | 227 | 720 | 70 | 144 | 119 | ..... | 221 |
| Crawford | 148 | 398 | 53 | 102 | 80 | ..... | 181 |
| Cumberland | 136 | 0 | 162 | 272 | 124 | ..... | 183 |
| Dauphin | 303 | 1,074 | 89 | 196 | 163 | ..... | 259 |
| Delaware | 2 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 2 | ..... | 1 |
| Elk | 3,164 | 14,892 | 1,253 | 1,890 | 1,608 | ..... | 2,002 |
| Erie | 76 | 150 | 43 | 123 | 91 | ..... | 137 |
| Fayette | 326 | 867 | 149 | 313 | 226 | ..... | 346 |
| Forest | 1,366 | 5,503 | 449 | 817 | 786 | ..... | 976 |
| Franklin | 310 | 1,192 | 71 | 186 | 134 | ..... | 191 |
| Fulton | 254 | 0 | 225 | 336 | 277 | ..... | 253 |
| Greene | 4 | 11 | 7 | 16 | 5 | ..... | 12 |
| Huntingdon | 953 | 2,876 | 362 | 682 | 598 | ..... | 768 |
| Indiana | 262 | 726 | 62 | 136 | 79 | ..... | 155 |
| Jefferson | 543 | 1,596 | 213 | 360 | 287 | ..... | 460 |
| Juniata | 232 | 0 | 217 | 282 | 171 | ..... | 248 |
| Lackawanna | 247 | 1,035 | 99 | 140 | 135 | ..... | 201 |
| Lancaster | 15 | 41 | 9 | 9 | 8 | ..... | 16 |
| Lawrence | 12 | 47 | 4 | 4 | 3 | ..... | 17 |
| Lebanon | 106 | 319 | 45 | 108 | 51 | ..... | 77 |
| Lehigh | 33 | 127 | 9 | 14 | 20 | ..... | 27 |
| Luzerne | 862 | 3,595 | 300 | 482 | 380 | ..... | 656 |
| Lycoming | 1,899 | 6,034 | 996 | 1,839 | 1,232 | 1,125 | 1,202 |
| McKean | 3,160 | 11,929 | 1,891 | 2,036 | 1,923 | 5,750 | 1,568 |
| Mercer | 27 | 80 | 15 | 22 | 16 | ..... | 38 |
| Mifflin | 378 | 1,474 | 140 | 290 | 184 | ..... | 227 |
| Monroe | 1,163 | 4,193 | 458 | 763 | 715 | ..... | 919 |
| Montgomery | 10 | 30 | 3 | 8 | 10 | ..... | 19 |
| Montour | 23 | 56 | 3 | 6 | 11 | ..... | 22 |
| Northampton | 79 | 314 | 17 | 39 | 40 | ..... | 72 |
| Northumberland | 92 | 285 | 18 | 45 | 49 | ..... | 72 |
| Perry | 348 | 1,164 | 81 | 146 | 149 | ..... | 217 |
| Philadelphia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | ..... | 0 |
| Pike | 1,537 | 5,262 | 824 | 1,313 | 1,204 | ..... | 1,347 |
| Potter | 2,766 | 9,095 | 1,647 | 2,093 | 1,826 | 4,305 | 1,763 |
| Schuylkill | 398 | 1,038 | 95 | 223 | 257 | ..... | 421 |
| Snyder | 149 | 613 | 31 | 83 | 54 | ..... | 85 |
| Somerset | 817 | 3,211 | 237 | 449 | 314 | ..... | 445 |
| Sullivan | 1,059 | 4,153 | 684 | 768 | 608 | 684 | 609 |
| Susquehanna | 237 | 863 | 94 | 235 | 175 | ..... | 373 |
| Tioga | 1,304 | 3,664 | 827 | 1,248 | 914 | 1,066 | 1,021 |
| Union | 249 | 895 | 95 | 197 | 150 | ..... | 120 |
| Venango | 663 | 2,745 | 151 | 379 | 277 | ..... | 426 |
| Warren | 1,889 | 6,718 | 990 | 1,266 | 1,224 | 702 | 1,174 |
| Washington | 1 | 26 | 0 | 0 | 2 | ..... | 11 |
| Wayne | 536 | 1,960 | 248 | 437 | 417 | ..... | 618 |
| Westmoreland | 537 | 2,329 | 87 | 233 | 147 | ..... | 211 |
| Wyoming | 354 | 1,230 | 211 | 235 | 201 | ..... | 295 |
| York | 12 | 33 | 11 | 19 | 13 | ..... | 36 |
| County Not Shown | 455 | 2,213 | 169 | 419 | 234 | ..... | 332 |
| Totals | 40,995 | 145,580 | 19,271 | 30,860 | 23,931 | 14,951 | 28,411 |

**C. R. Shore, McConnellsburg, sent in the above photograph of his son and three companions with a deer the former killed with a Garand MI at 450 yards near Leipsig, Germany. Left to right are: Pfc. Walter J. Preston of Peoria, Ill.; Thomas Henderson, Lancaster, Pa.; Raymond Peurifuoy, Concord, N. C.; and Willard V. Shore, McConnellsburg, Pa., all with the 90th Infantry Division, Patton's 3rd Army.**

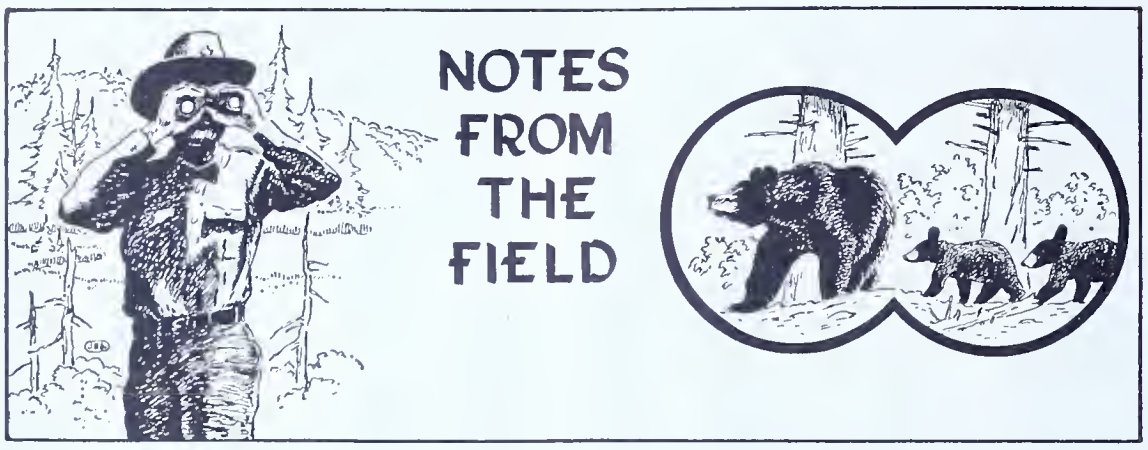
## SEEING RED

The old expression "seeing red" denotes anger. But in Wisconsin it has an entirely different meaning . . . SAFETY!

The Wisconsin legislature has recently passed a law which requires all deer hunters to wear some garment of red, so that fellow deer hunters will not mistake them for deer. The law provides:

"In the areas in which there is a season for the hunting of deer, no person shall hunt during such season unless at least 50% of his jacket, excluding the sleeves, shall be red or covered with a cloth or hankerchief or cloth of red color. Any person violating this subsection shall upon conviction be punished by a fine of $10."

Judging from the increase in the sale of hunting licenses in Wisconsin this year, it is safe to say that there will be a lot of people "seeing red" in the Badger State during the coming hunting season.




"Natural game food is rather scarce in the district this fall. We have had no killing frost to date. There are a few acorns and wild grapes but no beechnuts.

"Many more deer have been observed coming out into the fields and feeding during the past two weeks than during the summer months. I have observed quite a number of gray squirrels the past few weeks. They were very scarce during the summer."—Game Protector Maynard N. Miller, Honesdale, September, 1945.

---

"Ringneck pheasants are not showing up very well in any part of the county. Sportsmen training their dogs report seeing rabbits after rains, but no ringnecks. Quail are in evidence all over the county.

"A number of sportsmen plan to trap foxes this season, and the fox hunters have already had several hunts. The Rochester Club had 23 members out for a recent fox hunt."—Game Protector J. Bradley McGregor, Beaver, September, 1945.

---

"Deer are not very plentiful. I've had no damage complaints this month. Three miles west of the Lewistown Borough line a deer jumped the fence of a corn field, landed on the highway and was killed. I delivered it to the Mifflin County Alms House."—Game Protector Ralph E. McCoy, Lewistown, September, 1945.

---

"This month I caught eight red and two gray foxes and found that they were feeding almost entirely on wild black cherries which are very plentiful this year."—Game Protector Willard M. Crooks, Somerset, September, 1945.

---

"It is my opinion that this is going to be a very poor year for small game. The past winter, of course, took a very heavy toll of wildlife, but I believe the chief reason for the scarcity is the presence of vermin. One morning I found 7 'possums and 3 skunks in my fox traps. This goes on all the time. There is also an abundance of raccoons.—Game Protector Frank E. Couse, DuBois, September, 1945.

---

"Two white deer have been seen in the vicinity of Cherry Grove. One is a large buck with about a six point rack. White deer have also been seen in two or three other places."—Game Protector George H. Burdick, Tidioute, September, 1945.

"On September 11 a Cooper's hawk hit one of the cock ringnecks we were liberating before it had flown more than 75 feet. The ringneck was unharmed but was literally knocked out of the air. I have no doubt whatsoever that the Cooper's hawk kills many ringnecks, especially the immature birds."—Game Protector Clifford L. Ruth, Erie, September, 1945.

---

"We have a good supply of game for this fall, excepting grouse.

"We have an abundance of acorns this year, and according to reports we will have more bears than we have had in the past. Raccoons are plentiful."—Game Protector Thomas A. Mosier, Bellefonte, September, 1945.

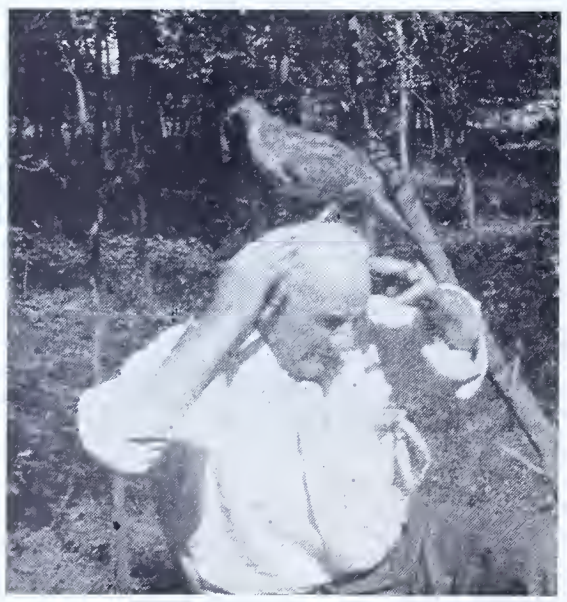
---

"A heavy crop of acorns in the Pond Eddy Section should assure good bear hunting. Deer are scarce. Grouse are scarce, and the fact that they are heard and not seen is evidence that they are plenty wild. The hunter will be lucky if he even gets a shot at one. Squirrels are fairly abundant, but a poor breeding season has depleted the number of rabbits."—Game Protector John H. Lohmann, Milford, September, 1945.

---

"There is a fair supply of acorns in the mountains for game food this fall. A few wild grapes survived the late frosts las spring.

"There appears to be an abundance o ringnecks for the coming season. Rabbit are also fairly abundant in some section Grouse are mighty scarce. Turkeys are be ginning to show up in fairly good number Deer are by no means too plentiful. Ver few are to be found in the remote areas du to lack of natural food."—Game Protecto M. B. Wells, Lewisbury, September, 1945.



**We are indebted to L. H. Giering, of Emlenton, for the above photo of Herman Beerkaufer and a tame ruffed grouse. The bird shows fight if you ruffle its feathers and will follow you around like a chicken.**

---

"Game food must be even less abundar than I believed. The Fish Warden report seeing a gray squirrel cross the road at Bake Run with a snake in its mouth and I don think it natural for a squirrel to be car nivorous. When I told the Fish Warden would sooner believe it was a snake with squirrel in its mouth, he was very indig nant about my doubting his veracity.

"There is a good crop of acorns in som sections of the district and none in other Why they should be in patches I don understand, but in any case it should mak bear hunting much easier. Acorns, bear No acorns, no bears."—Game Protector Ver A. Van Order, Renovo, September, 1945.

---

"Mr. Horace Heindel of near Yorkann claims he had over 400 chickens killed b foxes this spring and summer, and Mr. Pose of near Airville claims a fox killed some his lambs and full grown muscovy ducks las spring. He killed a gray fox which ende his trouble."—Game Protector E. J. Turne York, September, 1945.

---

"Dog trainers are reporting small gam more plentiful than they had thought. appears to me that ringneck pheasants ar plentiful in some areas and very scarce othe places."—Game Protector John Spencer, Or wigsburg, September, 1945.

---

"A ringneck hen evidently felt the urg to obtain some religion or perhaps felt tha by calling upon the minister she might b spared during the hunting season, so sh made an impromptu call upon the Methodis minister near Waltersburg on September 2 Hearing an unusual crash in the kitchen th good man rushed downstairs where he foun a large ringneck hen lying on the floor, an the glass in the kitchen window gone. I the crash through the window she ha broken her neck.

"A cherry tree on the outskirts of Union town recently burst into full bloom for th second time this year."—Game Protecto Lester E. Shaeffer, Uniontown, Septembe 1945.

---

"With the exception of sparrow hawk very few other hawks were noted through out the summer period. However, a numbe of marsh hawks were observed recently, an several authentic reports show these bird to have killed mature ringneck pheasants."– Field Division Supervisor Rollin Heffelfinge Irwin, September, 1945.

"Food conditions are not so good. We ıve only a few wild grapes and acorns. 'eed seeds will help out for the bird-life ıtil heavy snowfall covers them."—Game rotector Ralph A. Liphart, Homestead, eptember, 1945.

---

"While posting the line on Refuge 502 on eptember 12, I was surprised to see quite a w sassafras trees broken down by a bear ıat seemed to be traveling along the line. ruin was evidently on the move as this is ot good bear country.

"I've been seeing more squirrels than usual ıis season. Evidently our acorn crop is uch better than expected."—Game Protec- r Clyde E. Laubach, Clearfield, September, )45.

---

"Since the hawk migration started, there en't as many rabbits as previously re- orted. Every year when the migration is ı the small game seems to fade more or ss out of the picture."—Game Protector rancis E. Jenkins, Chinchilla, September, )45.

---

"The past two weeks have been extremely iny and wet which has caused many ducks migrate into this section. They are caus- ıg considerable damage to farmers' buck- heat crops in the Pymatuning Refuge Area. the wet weather continues much longer ıe farmers will not be able to harvest their uckwheat, and it wouldn't matter how much ıe ducks destroyed. We should have an xcellent year for duck hunting.

"The rainy weather has completely filled ıe lake in Refuge 510. We think that the wering of the lake one foot this year has reated a wonderful supply of duck food and ıe plan should be continued in years to ome. Wild millet and wild rice cut grass ere the two plants that predominated.

"Unless the weather changes and dries up omewhat, the program for trapping foxes ıis fall will be greatly curtailed, as it is ecessary to have dry ground in order to ift it over the traps and make a successful irt hole set."—Field Division Supervisor Iayes T. Englert, Oil City, September, 1945.

---

"On the night of September 23 while look- ıg for people jacklighting deer in Kidder 'ownship, Deputy Protector Butcher and I anted to check a certain field for deer. Vhen we threw the rays of a flashlight on ıe field, we saw five gray foxes together. short time later we saw a gray and a ed fox cross the road ahead of us."—Game rotector W. C. Achey, Weatherly, Septem- er, 1945.

---

"The game and food conditions in the dis- rict look better as the season advances. Acorns and beechnuts are bringing a lot of quirrels. I have seen more grouse in the ast few weeks than I did last year at this ime. The rabbits are plentiful in most sec- ions and there are a lot of young pheas- nts."—Game Protector Floyd A. Beck, Venus, September, 1945.

## STOLEN

A Sedley Springfield Cal. 30.06 sporting rifle, U. S. Armory Model 1903, Number 274338 was stolen from James E. Harkless, Inspection Dept., Westinghouse Electric Corp., East Pittsburgh during January 1945.

---

"At about noon on September 23, 1945 while hunting foxes, T. B. Waltman, Nescopeck, killed a Great Horned Owl that flew away from a freshly killed and partly eaten rabbit. I never before heard of a Great Horned Owl doing any killing at that time of day."—Game Protector Lewis H. Estep, Berwick, September, 1945.

## HUNTERS YOU KNEW

### Wandering Will

William B. Hydes
Couldn't be bothered with guides,
And it wasn't only their cost.

He said if one noted,
Where one hiked or boated,
There was no excuse to get lost.

One morning last fall,
With a patent moose call,
He hiked off as proud as a prince.

In the window each night,
Mrs. Hydes puts a light,
But no one has heard of Will since.

—Carsten Ahrens.

"While coming across the old dirt road from Hunter's Range I saw a fox running along ahead of me. As I got closer the fox turned around and I saw a full grown grouse in its mouth. The bird was still alive as I could see its wing smacking the fox on the side of the face. Although the fox left in a big hurry, it did not drop its next meal."—Game Protector Paul L. Failor, Mt. Pocono, September, 1945.

---

"Many complaints of bears damaging corn are being received."—Game Protector Earl E. Smith, Williamsport, September, 1945.

"There was a rumor going around in the Wilpen section that there was a monkey at large, and the children attending Reed's school were scared. I spent some time investigating this report, but could not find any truth in it."—Game Protector William G. Matthews, Rector, September, 1945.

---

"I believe that the great amount of rainfall this season is the main reason that no deer damage complaints have been received." —Game Protector William Lane, September, 1945.

---

"Farmers are having a lot of squirrel damage at present, due to the shortage of berries and nuts. I find the listed berries and nuts very scarce. Blackhaw, flowering dogwood, black gum, frostgrape, viburnum, white, red and rockoak acorns, persimmons, butternuts and black walnuts are small and not fully developed. Hickory nuts are also scarce and small."—Game Protector R. E. Holtzapple, Middleburg, September, 1945.

---

"Regardless of the absence of most of our natural game foods this year, we do have a bumper crop of red and rock acorns throughout the game lands. They are being consumed in quantities, especially by the squirrels, deer and raccoons.

"As for the season's game supply, deer are in abundance, rabbits and squirrels seem to be about average and the ringneck pheasant and ruffed grouse appear to be far less plentiful than they should be."—Game Protector Howard F. Hoffman, Susquehanna, September, 1945.

---

"Red oak and black cherry are principle sources of game food this fall. There will be enough to carry all game until heavy snowfall. There are also wild grapes and some beechnuts, but neither is a heavy crop. Hornbeam is spotty. There is a good crop only where seed set. Witch hazel is rather light. There are no apples, wild crab, hawthorn or Hercules Club berries."—Game Protector, L. B. Rosenkrans, Wilcox, September, 1945.

---

"There seems to be no doubt that the ringneck and squirrel will have to take the brunt of the shooting this fall in this section, as the rabbit is decidedly on the minus side. Where this same time last year many were seen killed on highways, there were none to be seen this season. There seems to be no good reason for this condition, except that there just aren't enough rabbits for predators, highway kills and hunters."—Game Protector H. C. Sutherland, Greenville, September, 1945.

---

"The hunting season in this section should be very successful from all reports of game. There are plenty of gray and black squirrels and a good many grouse. The bears are numerous in some sections and I have seen more big bucks this fall than in the last three years. There are plenty of acorns and a fair crop of beechnuts. The hawthornes are loaded and we have a few wild crabapples.

Photo by W. L. R. Drake.

**Members of the State Division of the Izaak Walton League in their 20th Annual Convention at Harrisburg on October 20 and 21. A full report of its proceedings will appear in the December issue. In the insert is Mr. Paul Clement, National President.**

The Junior 4-F League (Fur, Fish, Feathers and Forestry) of Centre County recently disclosed interesting stocking and reforesting programs that the members have just finished in the past few months.

The Fish committee reported 1600 federal finger-length brook and rainbow trout stocked in the Big Fill Run in March. During the same month they also stocked 1200 rainbow, brown and brook trout, all legal length. In June, 500 rainbow trout ranging from 6 inches to 18 inches long, and in August 2000 brook trout, finger length up to 6 inches, were stocked.

The Forestry committee reported transplanting 860 food trees including apple, wild crabapple, thornberries, sumac; also planting two bushels of black walnuts and a peck of shellbark hickories. Several visits back in the mountains where these trees have been planted show the trees growing well.

During the week of October 15, the Safety committee placed out safety pamphlets and placards to promote safer hunting in the area woods during the coming season.

A new committee was voted in to take charges of the feeding program for the coming winter.

---

The Delaware County Field and Stream Association is really doing something practical about improving farmer-sportsmen relations.

Recently the men got together and all pitched in to help farmers with their harvest work and to put up cooperative hunting posters and safety zone signs on farms open to public hunting in the Concord-Aston-Birmingham townships area.

This club also erects stiles for hunters and anglers to cross farm fences without damaging them and in every possible way improves the sportsmen's relations with the landowners.

---

The Sportsmen's Club of Mt. Joy began the new season with 80 renewed members and 32 new ones. This club recently obtained permission from the owner of the Snyder Orchards at Florin to close the orchards to hunting so that the grounds may be used as a private game propagation area.

---

The New Hope Fish, Game and Forestry Protective Association recently sponsored beagle field trials on the farm of Chester Magill.

The events started with a trial in which 13 braces of 13-inch beagles were entered. Silver plates were won by M. A. Titus, Flemington, N. J., and Fulmer Miller, Doylestown, as first and second prizes respectively.

This was followed by trials in which five braces of 15-inch beagles were entered. First prize and the silver trophy in this was won by the dog entered by L. Stellman, Hatboro.

The scenting conditions were fair and the trials were run off very rapidly and with no hitches and delays. Judges were Herbert Lorenton, Perth Amboy, N. J., and Walter Anderson, Cranford, N. J.

---

The Johnstown Sportsmen's Association has subscribed nearly $1,000 for the establishment of a fish hatchery. A site will be selected and work started just as soon as the necessary funds are available.

## NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE CONFERENCE DATES SET FOR 1946

The North American Wildlife Conference will be held in 1946, according to tentative plans of the American Wildlife Institute, which sponsors the annual meet. The dates agreed upon are March 11, 12, and 13, with headquarters at the Hotel Pennsylvania in New York City. No conference was held this year because of travel restrictions, which have now been lifted.

The Blair County Game, Fish and Forestry Association is making plans to cooperate with the Game Commission in an educational program with use of films before various civic and Church groups from time to time; organize a better game feeding program for the coming winter; set up a rabbit trapping committee to trap in Altoona and liberate throughout the county.

Twenty-five new members were received into the association.

---

The Shenandoah Fish and Game Protective Association has received a shipment of 25 pheasants from a farm in Wisconsin. They liberated three roosters each Sunday during October and are keeping the remaining birds until spring when a breeding program will be innaugurated by the club.

The association also liberated in the Ringtown area 22 hens and 50 roosters supplied by the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

---

The Titusville Sportsmen's Club now has 576 members with 142 in service. Dave Cairns took high honors by securing 31 new members. That's quite a record!

The club plans to open a new indoor rifle range in about three weeks. It also expects to stock a shipment of bass in Oil Creek, destroy the beaver dam at Mystic Park and put up posters for the club's dog area on South Perry Street Hill.

The fire strips from the Drake Well to Miller Farm and Miller Farm to Petroleum Center have been completed at a cost one-third less than estimated. The extra money will be used for annual spring care.

---

The Gallitzin Sportsmen's Association will present awards of $3, $2, and $1 to the Gallitzin High School students who submit the best essays in a "Hunt Safely" contest being sponsored by the county organization. Awards in the all-county event are $30, $20 and $10. Entries close November 1.

## CHARLES H. NEHF RE-ELECTED

Charles H. Nehf, outdoors columnist of the *lentown Morning Call,* was recently re-cted president of the Southeastern Divi-n of the Pennsylvania Federation of ortsmen's clubs.

The division authorized the purchase of ) pheasants to be stocked on the regulated ooting grounds procured for the use of teran patients at the Valley Forge General ospital. E. G. Henderson of Downingtown, airman of the project, reported that seven ners of land adjacent to the hospital have ned papers granting the federation permis-n to use their lands during Novem-r and December. The clubs as county oups within the jurisdiction of the division ll be asked to contribute $50 to a pool to ance the project; the remainder has been ntributed by game breeders and private in-viduals.

The Game Commission will allow the terans to shoot both hen and cock pheas-ts over the regulated grounds, such shoot-g to be done only by the convalescent tients. Personnel at the hospital will not permitted to hunt on the posted ground. e Army Special Services has agreed to rnish shotguns and shells for the service-en, who will be taken out in groups of five r hunting.

A resolution was adopted asking the State epartment of Commerce to tone down its tional advertising on the State's hunting d fishing facilities, and another resolution ks the Game Commission to set the deer ening season for the Monday nearest the st day of December to enable hunters to avel over the weekend to the deer country.

---

Sportsmen, numbering nearly 1,000, repre-nting Luzerne and Lower Lackawanna ounties, attended the 37th annual conven-n and field day of the Head Camp, United ortsmen of Pennsylvania at Harris' Park, veet Valley, recently.

The morning session was devoted to dis-ssing plans for more fish and game in rests and streams of the regional area, gislation and conservation.

The afternoon was given to sport events. e high gun in a clay target shoot was hester Loveland of West Pittston with 24; ephen Emanuel, Wilkes-Barre, was run-er-up with 23 and Casper Wall, Harvey's ake, was third with 20. Live turkeys were warded as prizes.

The honors for the raccoon field trials ere carried off by hounds belonging to the ack Mountain Sportsmen.

A dog show for beagle hounds and a wild-t skeet shoot completed the list of events.

---

The West Chester Fish and Game Associa-on recently held an auction of excess sport-g material. Much of this sporting equip-ent was donated to the club by members, d a profit of $51.00 in the club treasury was e result.

This organization of 897 members has pur-ased from the Philadelphia Electric Com-any 25 acres of ground on which its club ouse is situated along the Pottstown Pike. is an ideal location for the club's activities.

A 20-acre area surrounding White Oak Dam near Lancaster will be developed as a bird sanctuary by the Lititz Bird Club. This region is considered by authorities to be one of the best locations in the country for a bird sanctuary. Ten acres of the 20-acre tract are under water and will provide sanctuary for waterfowl.

The club plans to erect feeders, nesting boxes and shelters which will make the sanctuary a haven for many species of birds and wildlife. The organization has also planned a planting program to provide food and cover.

While fishing will be allowed on the area, the club announced that hunting and trapping wil lbe prohibited.

---

The Turkey Run Rod and Gun Club has "grown like a weed" since it was reorganized last April. At that time the club consisted of 20 members. Now its enrollment has reached 156, or an average of more than 30 new members each month.

Officers of this remarkable club are at present endeavoring to obtain 600 acres of hunting grounds in the Landingville Valley, and are confident of attaining their goal.

This organization also boasts the oldest member of any game club in the county or state. He is John H. Kreiser, Frackville, who celebrated his 90th birthday on September 19. *In the form of a friendly challenge, the officers request word from all other clubs stating the age of their oldest member. So send them in, boys. This ought to be interesting.*

---

The Delaware County Field and Stream Association, Inc., is now affiliated with the National Rifle Association.

Membership was obtained through the Ways and Means Committee which will now also be known as the N.R.A. Division. A class "B" charter has been obtained. Charter members are the present members of the Ways and Means Committee. Associate membership is open to all others who subscribe to the N.R.A. oath of allegiance and sign the roll.

Since its organization in 1939, this enterprising club has opened to public hunting more than 5,000 acres of farm land in the county, which previously had been closed.

The Delaware County boys recently purchased 40 acres of a farm they had previously leased and where they have built a clubhouse, rifle and pistol ranges, installed clay bird traps and held their Field Days and Club picnics. Each member is being asked to contribute $5.00 as his share of the new purchase.

---

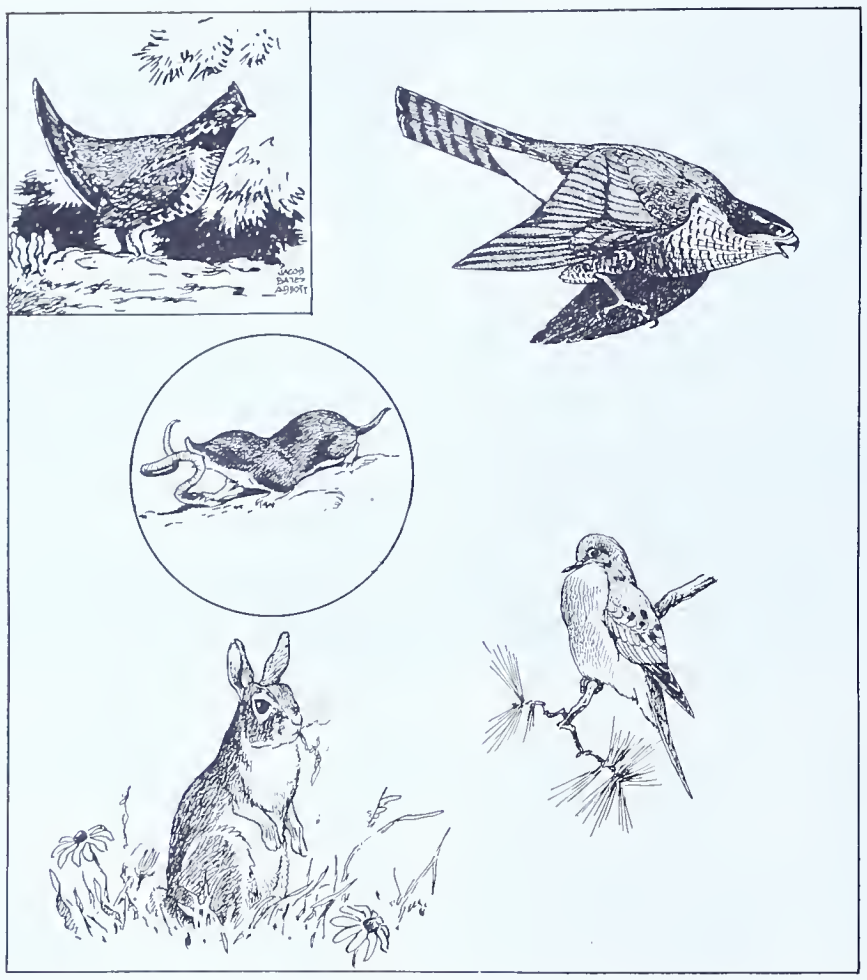
"The upland game bird should be conserved because of its economic value to agriculture.

"Their preservation and perpetuation can be accomplished only if the farmer and landowner leaves food and shelter upon his land. Sportsmen, conservationists and game departments have always encouraged the raising of quail and pheasants for sporting purposes, but progress has been made by teaching the farmer the economic value of upland game birds to him and his crops.

"Nature has wisely placed these birds here to assist us in our continuous war against injurious insects. The incalculable number of these injurious bugs destroyed annually by game birds would, if left unmolested, eventually destroy civilization.

"To preserve these upland game birds, the farmer should be asked to leave small grain and corn shocks in favorable feeding places on his farm this year and every year. The immediate loss of his unharvested grain would be trebly repaid to him in the future." —Jack Opachinski, Chairman Fish and Game Committee, Camp 272 United Sportsmen of Pennsylvania, Nanticoke.

We are anxious to receive photos of different kinds of hunting cabins which we plan to publish to give prospective builders ideas. The person who submitted the above picture did not give his name or the location of the camp.



Last month Drummer introduced you to the largest and smallest bird and mammal in Pennsylvania. This month he wants you to meet the fiercest and gentlest. Top right, the fiercest bird, the Goshawk. Center the fiercest mammal, the short-tailed shrew (above 4 inches long) which devours several times its weight in food daily. Bottom left, the cottontail rabbit, gentlest of the mammals who has no means of defense except his long legs, and right the gentlest bird, the mourning dove.

# Transactions of the Commission's Meeting

*(Continued from page 13)*

*Lands.* Right-of-Ways were granted in several instances, namely:

Granting the Pennsylvania Power & Light Company the right to construct and maintain a rural electric line across two sections of State Game Lands No. 88, North East Madison Township, Perry County.

Granting Dr. H. E. Kilgus the right to secure water from a spring on State Game Lands No. 25, Jones Township, Elk County and to pipe it to his camp nearby.

Granting the West Penn Power Company the right to construct and maintain an electric transmission line across State Game Lands No. 137, Mahoning Township, Armstrong County.

Granting the Pennsylvania Electric Company the right to construct and maintain an electric service line on State Game Lands No. 174, Banks Township, Indiana County.

Granting the West Penn Power Company the right to construct and maintain an electric transmission line over State Game Lands No. 176, Patton Township, Centre County.

Granting the Jefferson County Gas Company the right to construct and maintain a 4 inch natural gas pipe line across two sections of State Game Lands No. 50, Snyder, Polk and Heath Townships, Jefferson County. As a further consideration the company agrees to supply the Commission sufficient natural gas for the needs of the Commission's Training School in Snyder Township, Jefferson County.

Two cooperative farm-game projects, one primary and one auxiliary refuge, and one game propagation area were abandoned for one reason or another. One new auxiliary refuge was approved in Chester County approximating 400 acres belonging to the Chester County Council of Boy Scouts, 100 acres of which will be set aside as a refuge, and one game propagation area of about 300 acres in Northampton County, belonging to the Hellertown Borough Authority whereon no hunting will be permitted.

*Consideration to Land Purchase Options.* Land options were accepted subject to exceptions and revisions as follows:

a. 18 acres in Tinicum Township, Bucks County connecting with State Game Lands No. 56.

b. 1,000 acres in Main and Roaring Creek Townships, Columbia County, connecting with State Game Lands No. 58.

c. 238 acres in Plunketts Creek and Gamble Townships, Lycoming County, connecting with the State Wild Turkey Farm.

d. 50 acres in Tioga Township, Tioga County, almost surrounded by State Game Lands No. 37.

e. 16,012 acres in Benzinger Township, Elk County, adjoining State Game Lands No. 25.

Counter offers were made for 449 acres in Union Township, Snyder County and 156 acres in Greenfield Township, Erie County. One option of 5,080 acres was rejected and action was postponed on 784 and 38 acres respectively in Penn Forest Township, Carbon County and 40 acres in Washington township, Butler County.

*Revocations.* Twenty-three persons were denied the right to hunt or trap, mostly for one and two years, for violating the game laws and 20 others were adjudged guilty of careless shooting on the basis of referee hearings conducted by the Commission. These persons will forfeit their licenses anywhere from one to five years.

*Stony Creek Property.* Various problems which will arise in connection with the utilization of the Stony Creek property, State Game Lands No. 211, Dauphin and Lebanon Counties, containing almost 30,000 acres purchase of which was completed on September 11, 1945, also the future use of the former railroad right-of-way running through a large part of said property, purchase of which was completed on September 20, 1945 were submitted for consideration.

The Commissioner who presented them called attention to the fact that the Department of Military Affairs has expressed a willingness to turn over to the Commission an area of approximately 80.5 acres at Cold Springs, an interior holding, for such use as we may desire.

He further reported that the rails and the best ties have been removed from the old railroad grade and that numerous sportsmen have been using it in its present condition for some months to gain access to the area. He recommended that until such time as the Commission can put the roadway in proper condition so as to make it safe for public travel the entrance to these State Game Lands at the west end be closed and the road used for administrative purposes only, with a reasonable time allowed for the removal of the remaining ties, one or more camps, etc.

The Commissioner indicated that in all probability the military authorities may desire to rebuild the road running through the property for military use, or that the State Highway Department or the County of Dauphin might desire to build a suitable

*(Continued on Next Page)*

# The 1944 Game Harvest

*(Continued from Page 11)*

under the amended Game Law it will be necessary for hunters to file a big game-kill report within five days after the close of the season for the animal killed, using the blank attached to the license.

**Future Estimates**

Except for the Big Game Kill, it will be necessary to base future reports on field officers' estimates. However, with the basic information disclosed by the results derived from tabulating the individual reports for eight years, and by polling a representative number of hunters to ascertain the average kill per man, it is believed that the Commission's Field Officers can hereafter quite accurately estimate the annual game harvest. Under this plan of procedure, many hunters will be approached by our Game Protectors for information on their annual game kill, number of days hunted, etc. The Commission is confident that the hunters who will be approached during the 1945 open season, or soon thereafter, will cooperate fully by promptly furnishing accurate information.

oad through the area to connect with a roposed improved road leading from Indian-own Gap Military Reservation to Cold prings; also that one or more suitable refuge nits should be established as soon as areas an be agreed upon, the number of such nits being somewhat dependent upon hether this road will be open to general ublic travel from the west entrance to Cold prings or opened only part way. He sug-ested that the Commission cooperate with e Board of Fish Commissioners by per-itting that Department to improve Stony reek for fishing purposes in such a manner s may be compatible with the policies of e Game Commission.

After a full discussion, the Commission, pon motion made, seconded and adopted, greed that it would be willing to permit e opening of the road for public use pro-ided the State or the County desires to uild and maintain a highway through the rea; that in the meantime the road be closed public use; that the Commission cooperate ith the Board of Fish Commissioners in the anner outlined; and that in the Commis-ion's opinion it could not utilize advan-geously the property at Cold Springs or stify the expenditure of funds in the res-oration of buildings thereon for the accom-odation of hunters, because the law does ot authorize expenditures for operation of unting accommodations, but that the Com-ission would be willing to assume respon-ibility for the general administration of said terior holding and allow the public to use for hunting and fishing, but not for over-ight camping.

*Trailers.* A suggestion was made by a Commissioner that single-wheeled trailers be purchased if possible for the use of each Game Protector for hauling feed, transport-ing game, etc. The desirability of acquiring a number of rototillers for use in planting food plots was also considered, and the possibilities of securing both these items and other desirable equipment will be ex-plored further.

*Valley Forge Hospital Project.* Another Commissioner outlined a proposal by the Southeastern Division of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs to sponsor a regulated shooting grounds project for re-habilitating veterans at Valley Forge Gen-eral Hospital, Phoenixville. Individuals and organizations have agreed to contribute both ringneck pheasants and funds for the pur-chase of additional pheasants. The Commis-sion's cooperation was requested.

It was agreed such cooperation shall be extended so long as it does not involve the use of pheasants reared to maturity at any of the State Game Farms, and that the Commission offer to furnish the Valley Forge Hospital such number of day-old pheasant chicks next spring as they may be able to handle successfully to be raised for use on such rehabilitation project.

*Cooperation With Conservation Committee.* A communication from Governor Martin ask-ing the Commission to designate someone to cooperate with the Post War Planning Com-mission and the Conservation Committee recently designated was presented and it was agreed that the Executive Director shall represent the Commission in such matters.

## MORE GAME AND BETTER HUNTING

*(Continued from Page 14)*

they drop their eggs promiscuously, whereas acclimated birds nest normally. The birds released in August and September are placed in the field when cover and food are at their maximum. They learn to feed on grass-hoppers, then gradually turn to grain, seeds, berries and fruit. When winter arrives, they have discovered the locations of the best cover and food and they have developed the renowned craftiness of native birds. "The loss to predators of summer stocked birds will not offset the gain in the number of birds released," Jake argues.

The most productive ringneck country is the great standing corn belt of the Mid West where every farm has a huge game plot, and as a result there are a number of birds in the acre. Interesting ringneck pheasant hunting is provided where there is one bird per acre. By means of the refuge game plot system, this supply can be developed and maintained practically anywhere within the range, but it can be greatly exceeded in a limestone environment. The carrying capac-ity of any area outside of the standing corn belt can be increased at least 50%. The supply of game has a tendency to increase proportionately with the carrying capacity of the land although in some cases stocking is advisable. Judicious management is cer-tain to provide more birds and more inter-esting hunting, just as it has done on these two farms, as well as on my own farm, which is managed along similar lines. If a large territory or a block of farms is involved possibilities increase. The fact remains, we can improve the bird supply and we can improve hunting just as Ducks Unlimited accomplished that very thing with our migratory waterfowl.

To quote the Great Teacher and apply his message to conservation, "sow that ye may reap."

## Mountain Music

*(Continued from page 19)*

He had learned that a white-faced cow vill fight man or beast to protect her young nd that a hound can't run the line when a vhite-faced cow is on his tail. There was slight loss, and then Eagle's turkey mouth dvertised the fact that "He's gone this way. Follow me".

Again the pack took up the cry: Drum's oll, Major's wild goose call, Jake's tenor, FDR's chop—all these and more made music hat will last in my memory for years to come. Down the canyon I heard an owl cussing all wolf hunters in general and Bill nd me in particular. Up the canyon about quarter of a mile I could hear a Whip-Poor-Will tuning up to serenade his girl riend.

A cow bawled over on the prairie. A tree rog opened up with his dime's worth. The crickets started their choir, and across the canyon I could hear that pulsing throb of an il well as it rhythmetically pumped 'Black Gold' from the Osage Hills.

From the West came sweet music to a unter's ears—a pack in full cry. Quicker han a Nazi can say 'Heil Hitler' those hounds bayed. Bill snapped on his flashlight and ore off toward the canyon like a turpentined at. I took off right behind him like a Rhode Island Red hen after a June bug. I arrived here at the climax of a good wolf race, breathless and with throbbing heart. I saw a snarling wolf in the beam of Bill's light. Seemingly he knew that he had met his Waterloo. His evil eyes flashed their mes-sage of hate, his wicked fangs flashed at an overly-anxious Walker.

These Walkers are bred not only to trail, jump, and run a wolf, but to kill at the end of the chase as well. The Oklahoma Kid made his bid for a hero's medal and got his left ear lit. FDR took his prey from behind and grabbed him by the ham. The Oklahoma Kid bored in, blood streaming from his slashed ear, jaws yawning, jowls slavering, fangs bared, his eyes hot with hatred. Those powerful jaws closed on an unprotected throat. There was a guttural growl of pain, hate, and terror welling up from a heaving chest. It was echoed by a gurgle of blood in the throat of the hound. This fight was to the death; survival of the fittest—the law of fang and claw.

Needless to say the pack stretched that wolf out in short order. Each Walker tasting his blood; each having a few of his bristles between his teeth. Finally the carcass lay lifeless, one wolf less to prey upon calves, pigs, sheep, chickens, and turkeys. The hounds stepped back, licking their chops, panting, blood flecks showing on their white coats.

"Four hours and seventeen minutes", said Bill, "From Fly's strike to the kill."

**Corporal Louis D. Mostoller, former Game Land Manager, Washington County, standing beside deer crossing sign on the Autobohn Highway near Bonn, Germany.**

"I have been transferred to the 288th Engrs. and request that you change my address so that I may continue to receive the GAME NEWS.

"With the hunting season fast approaching, needless to say I am very homesick for the hills of Pennsylvania. I imagine the leaves are colored beautifully by now, and it won't be long 'till you'll hear dogs barking on the trails again.

"There are very few rabbits in this area, near Dachan, most of them being jackrabbits. The deer, however, are very plentiful and the farmers are constantly complaining to the "Military Government" about them destroying the crops. I saw seven, in a short drive here along the main road so I can easily understand why the farmers complain, having no weapons to kill any of them.

"We are required to have licenses to hunt, and I haven't had time to obtain mine as yet. However, we have had plenty of venison the past few days here in the kitchen, the reason being some hunters have the fever and have obtained licenses.

"Yesterday I met a hunter from Kittanning who told me there are several Pennsylvania hunters in his unit, and they bagged nine or ten already.

"I'll write you later and let you know if I have any luck."—Cpl. Kern Smith, 13094796, Co. B., 288th Engr. (c) Bn., APO 403, c/o P. M. New York.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACTS OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AND MARCH 3, 1933

Of Pennsylvania Game News published monthly at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, for October, 1945.

State of Pennsylvania }
County of Dauphin } ss.

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Leo A. Luttringer, Jr., who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Editor of the Pennsylvania Game News and that the following is to the best of his knowledge and belief a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the Act of March 3, 1933, embodied in section 537, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are:

Publisher, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.

Editor, Leo A. Luttringer, Jr., Harrisburg, Pa.

2. That the owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding one per cent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a firm, company, or other unincorporated concern, the name and address, as well as those of each individual member, must be given.) Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.) None.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by him.

5. That the average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the twelve months preceding the date shown above is ..... (This information is required from daily publications only.)

LEO A. LUTTRINGER, JR.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 18th day of September, 1945.

(Seal.) LUCILLE A. STROUP.
Notary Public.

(My commission expires March 5, 1947.)

Lost: On Route 22 between Ephrata and Lancaster at Oregon, Pa., on the Garman farm, November 1, one liver and white pointer. Solid liver head with small dash of white between the eyes, large liver saddle over back and spot on right side of body. A tall slender dog, one year old wearing collar with brass plate bearing the name of H. G. Garman, 2315 Logan St., Harrisburg. Liberal reward for information or return.—R. Otis Carpenter, 352 S. Cameron St., Harrisburg, Pa.

# OFFICIAL 1945 OPEN SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS

**(All Shooting Hours Based on Eastern Standard Time)**

Open season includes both dates given, Sundays excepted for game. **On November 1 no hunting of any kind before 9 A. M.** With this exception, shooting hours daily are 7 A. M. to 5 P. M., except from July 1 to September 30 inclusive, 6 A. M. to 7:30 P. M. Raccoons may be hunted at night, with a noon-to-noon daily limit.

| UPLAND GAME (Small game possession limit two days' bag) | Bag Limits Day | Bag Limits Season | Seasons Open | Seasons Close |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ruffed Grouse | 2 | 8 | Nov. 1 | Nov. 30 |
| Quail, Bobwhite | 4 | 12 | Nov. 1 | Nov. 30 |
| Hungarian Partridges | 2 | 8 | Nov. 1 | Nov. 30 |
| Wild Turkeys (See 7 counties closed)* | 1 | 1 | Nov. 1 | Nov. 30 |
| Ringneck Pheasants, males only | 2 | 8 | Nov. 1 | Nov. 30 |
| Rabbits, Cottontail | 4 | 20 | Nov. 1 | Nov. 30 |
| Squirrels, Gray, Black and Fox | 6 | 24 | Nov. 1 | Nov. 30 |
| Squirrels, Red | Unlimited | | Nov. 1 | Sept. 30, 1946 |
| Grackles (commonly called Blackbirds) | Unprotected | | until September 30, 1946 | |
| Hares (Snowshoe Rabbits) | 2 | 6 | Dec. 17 | Jan. 1, 1946 |
| Raccoons, by individual or hunting party* | 4 | 20 | Oct. 22 | Feb. 1, 1946 |
| Raccoons, by trapping (Statewide)* | | 20 | Nov. 1 | Feb. 1, 1946 |
| Woodchucks (Groundhogs) | Unlimited | | July 1 | Sept. 30 |
| Bear, over one year old, by individual | 1 | 1 | Nov. 26 | Nov. 29 |
| Bear, as above, by hunting party of three or more | 2 | 2 | Nov. 26 | Nov. 29 |
| Deer, male with two or more points to one antler (Statewide), also antlerless deer in that part of southeastern Pennsylvania designated* | 1 | 1 | Dec. 1 | Dec. 15 |
| Deer, as above, by hunting party of six or more | 6 | 6 | Dec. 1 | Dec. 15 |

**NO OPEN SEASON—Sharp-tailed Grouse, Cub Bears and Elk.**

**FUR-BEARERS**—(See note under Special Regulations)*

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Minks, Skunks and Otters* | Unlimited | | Nov. 1 | Feb. 1, 1946 |
| Muskrats (By traps only)* | Unlimited | | Dec. 1 | Feb. 1, 1946 |
| Beavers (By traps only)* | | 2 | Feb. 15 | Mar. 1, 1946 |
| Opossums | Unprotected | | until September 30, 1946 | |

***SPECIAL REGULATIONS**

**Turkeys—Counties of Clarion, Forest, Jefferson, McKean, Snyder, Tioga and Warren closed.**

**Raccoon Hunting—The season begins at noon on the opening date, and ends at same hour on the closing date.**

**Raccoon Trapping—Traps not to be placed before 9 A. M., on the opening date (see instructions below concerning lifting traps on closing date).**

**Deer, Southeastern Pennsylvania, Combined Season—Both sexes, spike bucks excepted, may be killed in the counties of Lancaster, Chester, Montgomery, Delaware, Philadelphia and Bucks, also those parts of Dauphin, Lebanon, Berks, Lehigh and Northampton Counties** lying south of U. S. Highway Route No. 22, leading from Harrisburg to Easton, during the regular season without special permits. A hunter may kill only one deer and the regular hunting party limit applies.

**Beavers—Statewide trapping permitted, except where dams are posted by Commission. Non-Residents may not trap beavers. One person may set, tend or operate 10 traps only. Traps must not be placed closer than 15 feet from the waterline on any established beaver house.** Trappers are required to keep tags above ice or waterline to facilitate identification without disturbing traps. **Pelts must be tagged within 10 days after season, and may not be sold or otherwise disposed of until properly tagged. Present them to Protector in** District or County where trapped.

**Trapping**—Traps for fur-bearers and raccoons not to be placed before 9 A. M. on Nov. 1 or before 7 A. M. on any later opening date for trapping. The season on the last date indicated for trapping closes at 12 o'clock noon to permit removal of animals caught on the last night of the season and lifting traps by daylight.

**Snares—No counties open to use of snares.**

MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS—FEDERAL SEASONS

| | Daily Limits | 1945 Open Seasons (Sundays Excepted) |
|---|---|---|
| Rails and Gallinules (except Sora and Coots), combined kinds | 15 | Sept. 1-Nov. 30 |
| Sora | 25 | Sept. 1-Nov. 30 |
| Coots | 25 | Oct. 13-Dec. 31 |
| Wild Duck, except American and Redbreasted Mergansers (See Exceptions)* | 10* | Oct. 13-Dec. 31 |
| American and Redbreasted Mergansers | 25 | Oct. 13-Dec. 31 |
| Wild Geese and Brant | 2* | Oct. 13-Dec. 31 |
| Woodcock | 4 | Oct. 10-Oct. 24 |
| Doves | 10 | Nov. 1-Nov. 30 |

***Exceptions**—The regular daily duck limit of 10 shall not include more than one (1) Wood Duck. In addition to the daily limit for Geese or Brant, 4 Blue Geese and Snow Geese (either singly or in the aggregate), may be taken. **Possession Limit:** Ducks, Geese, Brant and Woodcock, twice the daily bag (except on opening day), but only one (1) Wood Duck. No possession limit after first day on American and Redbreasted Mergansers. Other migratory game birds, daily bag only. Possession 90 days after season.

No Open Season—Wilson's Snipe (Jacksnipe), Ross's Geese and Swans.

**Shooting Hours**—(Eastern Standard Time). All migratory game birds: From beginning of respective open seasons to October 31 inclusive, one-half hour before sunrise to sunset; November 1, 9 A. M. to 5 P. M.; November 2 to end of respective seasons 7 A. M. to 5 P. M. (unless sunset occurs earlier, when Federal sunset regulation automatically applies). **Exception:** On the open waters of Lake Erie and the open tidal waters of the Delaware River lying within the Commonwealth from Trenton Falls to the Delaware State line not including inland tidal water), when shooting from boats or blinds at least 100 yards from shore, the Federal one-half hour before sunrise to sunset regulation applies throughout the waterfowl season, except on November 1, when shooting before 9 A. M. is unlawful.

# PENNSYLVANIA Game News

Pennsylvania State Library
DOCUMENTS SECTION

P38.34
1.6
16/9 c1

December 1945 Ten Cents

# PENNSYLVANIA GAME NEWS

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION, HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

EDWARD MARTIN, GOVERNOR

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

ROSS L. LEFFLER, *President* .....Pittsburgh
ROBERT LAMBERTON, *Vice-President* .....Franklin
COL. NICHOLAS BIDDLE .....Bethayres
G. I. PHILLIPS .....Alexandria
HAROLD MOLTZ .....Williamsport
DR. H. E. KILGUS .....Brockway
JOHN C. HERMAN .....Dauphin
B. K. WILLIAMS .....East Stroudsburg

Administrative Office

SETH GORDON .....*Executive Director*
R. A. MCCACHRAN .....*Assistant Director*

DIVISION OF LANDS

W. Gard. Conklin .....*Chief*

DIVISION OF ACCOUNTING & BUDGET

N. E. Slaybaugh .....*Comptroller*

DIVISION OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

Leo A. Luttringer, Jr. .....*Chief*
*Editor*, PENNSYLVANIA GAME NEWS

TRAINING

W. M. Cramer .....*Supt. Training School*

Bureau of Field Operations

DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

W. C. Shaffer .....*Chief*

DIVISION OF LAND MANAGEMENT

James N. Morton .....*Chief*

DIVISION OF RESEARCH
(Vacancy)

PROPAGATION & DISTRIBUTION

Earl S. Greenwood .....*Acting*

FIELD DIVISION SUPERVISORS

DIVISION "A"—M. J. Golden, 602 Penn Ave., West Reading, Pa.
Berks, Bucks, Chester, Dauphin, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, York.

DIVISION "B"—Jay C. Gilford, Wyoming Ave. and Welles St., Forty Fort, Pa.
Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming.

DIVISION "C"—Thomas F. Bell, 352 E. 3rd St., Williamsport, Pa.
Bradford, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga, Union.

DIVISION "D"—William J. Davis, 327 Penn St., Huntingdon, Pa.
Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry.

DIVISION "E"—M. E. Sherman, 1 E. Du Bois Ave., Du Bois, Pa.
Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, Potter.

DIVISION "F"—Hayes T. Englert, 14 W. 1st St., 2d Floor, S. S. Oil City, Pa.
Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, Warren.

DIVISION "G"—Rollin Heffelfinger, 405 Main Street, 2d Floor, McClellan Bldg., Irwin, Pa.
Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, Westmoreland.

## HOW TO SUBSCRIBE

RATES—$0.50 per year to residents of Pennsylvania, regardless of address. $1.00 per year for Non-Residents of Pennsylvania. (Out-of-State, District of Columbia Canadian or Foreign.) Club rates are available to organizations presenting 10 or more subscriptions in a single order. Remittances by check or money order to be made payable to the Department of Revenue, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. CASH FORWARDED AT SENDER'S RISK. STAMPS NOT ACCEPTED. Your local Game Protector, County Treasurer or other Hunting License Issuing Agent will take your subscription; or you may forward it direct to the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.

Please report all changes of address promptly, sending both your old and new addresses.

Please address *all* communications to the Editorial Office.

Publication office, Cameron and Kelker Sts., Harrisburg, Pa.

Executive and editorial office, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.

Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, under Act of March 3, 1879.

Permission to reprint will be granted provided proper credit is given.

Mailed in conformity with P.O.D. Order No. 19687.

VOL. XVI, NO. 9

# EDITORIAL

December, 1945

## IN THIS ISSUE

**Corn Fed Squirrels**
By C. M. Campbell

★

**A Farmer Looks at Wildlife**
By Hartwell E. Roper

★

**That Second Mile**
By Herbert Kendrick

★

**Propagation and Distribution Recommendations**

★

**Want More Pheasants?**

★

**It Doesn't Pay**
By W. C. Shaffer

★

**Well, What's Wrong?**
By Jacob Bates Abbott

★

Cover by Jacob Bates Abbott

## HELP US DOUBLE THE ANTE

Help us jump the subscriptions to GAME NEWS from its present circulation of around 36,000 to 72,000. Yes, let's push it up to 100,000 while we are at it. Then we would be reaching about one-sixth the number of licensed hunters instead of only one-sixteenth the number. Naturally the simplest way to do the job would be for every subscriber to enter a subscription for a friend. The NEWS makes a nice Christmas gift especially if it's presented for two years. For that matter it makes a nice gift any time. Where else can you buy thirty-two pages worth of the kind of things an outdoor man likes to read for the same price? We even try to make it diversified enough so mom and the kids can enjoy it, and that school teachers can use it. And, beginning with the January 1946 issue we plan several surprises for you in the way of new departments, more and better illustrations, and more hunting stories with local color if we can persuade some of those too modest hunters to tell us about their unusual experiences. They needn't be literary geniuses. A story told in a fellow's own particular way, slang and all (profanity excepted) is the best after all, and if it needs a little polishing up here and there that's what an editor's for.

So why not put on an individual sales program and send in just one subscription? You've spent fifty cents for lots of less useful things and it didn't put a crimp in your family budget. Sportsmen's organizations can also help increase the number of readers by using the club rate of forty cents for ten or more subscribers to boost their memberships, and by taking out subscriptions for some of their cooperating farmer friends. We frequently publish articles that may influence them to improve wildlife conditions on their farms. Remember, the only dividends the magazine has ever paid since it first saw the light is the information and pleasure the reader gets out of it. Let's do our best to give him as much of both as possible.

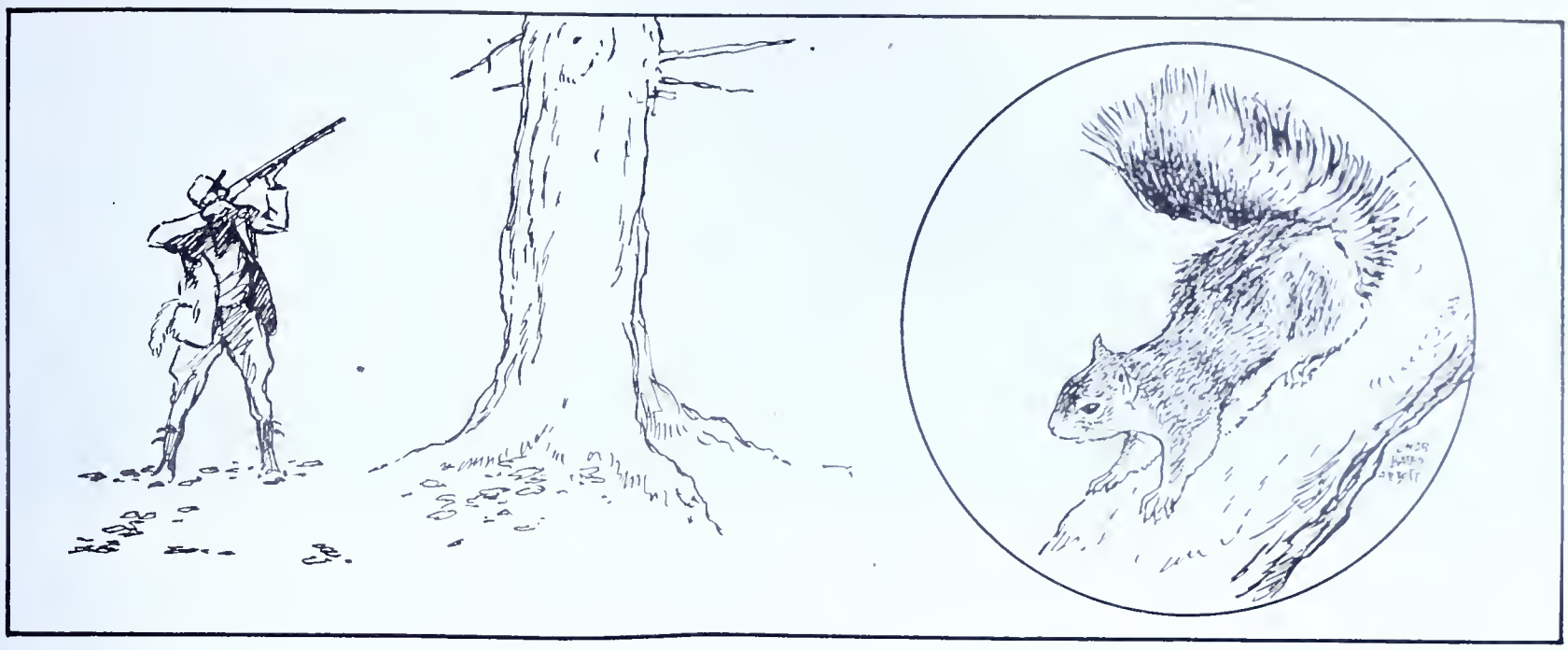
We're also laying ourselves open to constructive criticism on the magazine as it now stands, and invite suggestions for its improvement. Don't be bashful. We've weathered a lot of storms in the past and there's still enough life left in us to weather another.

HELP US DOUBLE THE ANTE!

---

**If you receive your magazine late do not complain too bitterly. We are having all sorts of printing problems. Paper is scarce and we have had to borrow from other publishers to print the October and November issues. We hope conditions will improve soon.**

JACOB
BATES
ABBOTT



# CORN FED SQUIRRELS

**By C. M. CAMPBELL**

**Illustrated by Jacob Bates Abbott**

IT WAS late October. The kitchen table, covered with a newspaper served as workbench while I gave the little Remington .22 a complete overhauling in anticipation of the hunting season that was just around the corner. The door burst open and slammed shut and there was Jim. Without a word he swung a chair opposite me, picked up my tobacco pouch and started filling his pipe. When he had about an ounce of the weed stowed away in the capacious bowl I remarked that he could find a caulking tool and a three-pound hammer on a shelf in the shed. "Experience," said he, "has taught me that this foul brand of your choice burns better when not too tightly packed." I hastened to inform him that in my opinion his brand of cut plug, that had to be rolled in the hand like a raccoon rolls a crawfish, was no time saver to say the least. "Your hostility—being probably caused by indisposition—I will overlook for the present," said Jim. "I came over here with information to share with you and"—"If you have information worthy of consideration you may get it off your chest if you wish. Whatever else I may be I'm also a good listener," says I.

From behind a smoke-screen that concealed his features, Jim said, "Link told me this morning that squirrels had made a mess of his corn field on the point hill. He claims they have ruined a half acre of it, back where his rail fence joins the hot wire at the cow pasture. He paid us the compliment of an invitation to hunt there, asking that we lay off the quail and grouse as he wants to give them a chance to increase their numbers. He also suggested that we stop at the house as we go in, so he will know who was in his woods."

Election day furnished the break we needed. Our tracks were visible in the frosty grass in the lane before the sun had filtered the first yellow rays through the leafless trees. We had found Link busy with his milking machine at the barn. He told us to help ourselves to all the squirrels and rabbits the law allowed and was pleased to note that we carried rifles. He said, "A little rifle saves a lot of meat and a lot of cussin', like when you clamp your bridgework on a No. 4 shot."

We left the lane where the skeleton of the old chestnut tree stood, a mute reminder of the days when Jim and I had stuffed our pockets with the big, brown nuts it had produced a few years ago. Fifty yards out from Link's line fence we found evidence that he had not dreamed up the statement that squirrels has "made a mess" of his corn. There were corn husks and cobs all along the fence and indications that the woodchucks had also had a bit to do with the general havoc. Their burrows were well marked with corn cobs left just outside.

We slipped up to the fence, using a clump of young hemlocks as a screen. The story of Link's ruined corn rapidly unfolded as we cast an eye over the wreck. When he had harvested the crop in late September, he had left uncut, as worthless, a section in a corner twelve rows wide and about two hundred feet long. What was left standing was now an irregular maze of broken stalks, the shredded husks on grainless cobs swaying gently in the light breeze. A few shocks left in the field bore witness to the fact that they, too, were under attack by these bandits.

Action started within five minutes after we reached the fence. Along the top rail came a big black squirrel, carrying an ear of corn that must have equaled his own weight. A few yards behind came a gray one with apparent designs on the same corn. I got a shot at the black when he paused a moment and all I could see was that ear of corn

*(Continued on page 24)*

A fine example of strip and contour farming.

# A FARMER LOOKS AT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

By HARTWELL E. ROPER*

Reprinted from the Transactions of the Tenth North American Wildlife Conference

In the discussion of croplands and wildlife it is fitting that the farmer should voice his opinions, for the farmer owns and controls the croplands, and in a large measure determines the kinds and quantities of wildlife on those lands. When we consider the extent of the cropland or farmland of this country, we begin to appreciate the importance of the farmer's attitude toward wildlife management and conservation.

As a farmer I would like to discuss wildlife management from a farmer's point of view, showing: First, the possible attitudes that farmers can and do have regarding wildlife; second, wildlife as a farm crop or product; third, ways in which the farmer can improve and increase this wildlife crop; and fourth, ways of educating farmers to cooperate in a long-time wildlife management program.

Now, in regard to the attitudes which farmers take toward wildlife, it seems to me that there are three groups. In the first group we find those who regard wildlife as pests and enemies. They know only that the rabbits bark their raspberry bushes, the squirrels eat the ears of corn growing along the woods, the pheasants pull the young corn and peck holes in their tomatoes, the robins steal strawberries and cherries, the muskrats make holes in the pasture where their cows may break a leg, the skunk makes a bad smell when he isn't stealing their chickens, and poor little Jenny Wren gets on their nerves with her incessant chattering. I have overdrawn the picture, perhaps, but I know farmers who see far more of the nuisance in our wild friends than they do of the benefits to be derived from them. If the farmers of this group, and their sons, are people of energy, wildlife will find the going hard, and will probably seek a more friendly asmosphere. Fortunately, this group is small.

In the second group are those who accept wildlife for what it is. They are glad to see the first robins in the spring, put up with a little damage now and then without much fuss, are glad to see plenty of rabbits and cock pheasants for the hunting season, and feel no further interest or responsibility. If we ask them how the game is faring with all this ice and snow, the answer is glib, "Pretty tough, I expect, but there ought to be some seeds out in the woods and thickets," and the matter is forgotten again. This is the largest group of the three, except where definite educational work has been done among the farmers.

The third group is composed of those who are interested in wildlife, who regard our wild animals and birds as friends and as farm assets. They are concerned about food and shelter for wildlife. They see the good that our birds and animals do, and they know that the good outweighs the bad. This group knows the thrill of a new bird seen for the first time, the satisfaction of seeing some big fish in the pool below the bridge, the enjoyment of having a flock of pheasants that some like chickens to eat the corn they have scattered just beyond the clothesline, where the whole family can see them from the dinner table. The farm families of this group accept the responsibilities of wildlife care, and on their farms we can expect a well-managed wildlife program and a goodly crop of wildlife. This group is, like the first, small, but it is growing as more and more educational work is done.

Next, let us consider wildlife as a farm crop. In the first place, wildlife is a crop in that it has certain values which are tangible in an economic, social, and educational sense. From an economic point of view, think of the good done by our birds and animals each year in insect and rodent control. This item alone could run into millions of dollars in damage to crops, were it not for our wild friends. As I plow I like to watch the crows and blackbirds following my furrow to seek out the grubs turned up by the moldboard or disk. I know that the those grubs will never bother me again and so I can forgive the bold black rascals for the corn that they may steal at planting time.

The game, fish, wild fruits, and nuts, that find their way to our table, are certainly of value to us. Many of our ancestors found most of their living in this fashion and a pheasant or a grouse stuffed with apples, celery, and walnut meats, and roasted to a golden brown, will make the most fastidious mouth water in anticipation; and who will scorn a rabbit stew, a venison steak, or a plate of fried brook trout? Many a farm boy earns his pocket money, and sometimes even his clothes for school, with muskrat or skunk hides. Wild berries and nuts are most welcome additions to the farm menu both in season and when preserved, frozen, or dried.

Equal in importance to the ecomonic value of wildlife is its social and recreational value. Each year millions of dollars are spent for sporting equipment, clothes, and gasoline to be used in hunting, fishing, picnicking, camping, hiking, trapping, nature study, and so on. Wildlife and its habitat furnish us with one of our largest, healthiest, most desirable recreational opportunities. In this respect wildlife is a thing of value to all our nation, not just to the farmer who owns the land.

In a discussion of wildlife as a farm crop we must think not only of its value, but also of the fact that wildlife is quite definitely a product of soil and water, a crop of the land. There is no type or variety of wildlife which is not directly or indirectly dependent upon the soil for food and shelter. If my farm does not produce satisfactory wildlife food and furnish proper and adequate cover, my farm will harbor little or no wildlife, regardless of how careful I may be about hunters or hawks, foxes, and other predators. My rabbits and pheasants are as dependent upon

* Chairman, Lancaster County Soil Conservation District and member of the State Soil Conservation Council.

e proper production of my farm as are my rebred Guernseys. They are a farm crop, resource that needs some care and atten-n, and that carries responsibilities for the rmer. What shall the farmer do to prop-y care for this wildlife crop, which is one his responsibilities and assets? There are ny things that he can do which follow od practical farm management. The first ethod of caring for wildlife is through oper land use. By proper land use I mean e devotion of different types of land to ose crops and cropping practices to which ey are best suited. For instance, smooth, vel fields should be devoted to cultivated ops, in rotation of course; smooth, gently-to oderately-sloping fields should also be de-ted to farm crops, but in contour strips, ernating intertilled crops with close-grow-g crops. Rather steep land and land sub-t to serious erosion should go into perma-nt hay or pasture, or perhaps back to oodland. Very steep land, rough land, llies, ravines, big rock outcrops, sink holes, d waste land of any kind should go back o woodland of some sort. By using the ogram suggested above, each type of land adequately protected from erosion, streams e protected from silting, each type of land producing the crops for which it is best apted, and wildlife cover and food is pro-led in logical places. It is interesting to tice that contour strips of close-growing ops, alternated with the strips of row ops, furnish lanes of travel for wildlife, as wooded gullies or ravines and occasional rub fence rows.

The proper management of the farm wood-nd is another important factor in pro-ling the ideal habitat for wildlife. A oodland in which selective cutting is prac-ed to remove undesirable specimens and to eserve a balanced production of mature es, second growth, and immature trees and rubs, will provide abundant food and

# When the Best Land Use Practices Are Employed Both Agriculture and Wildlife Benefits Therefrom

cover, and will give the highest return for wood products. A stand of mixed hardwoods and conifers is ideal, but not always practical. Woodland should not be cut in such a fashion as to have only one or two varieties in the stand. Occasional den trees should be left standing, and a good brush pile here and there is appreciated by our wild friends. Woodland should be protected from fire and pasturing, so as to preserve as much under-growth as possible. An occasional well-cleaned fire trail is good insurance for wood-land and wildlife alike. The borders of a woods should be planted to shrubs and bushes which are low growing, and which will provide desirable food for birds and animals.

In making new woody plantings, especially in small areas, plan to use as many low-growing, food-producing species as possible, and limit the varieties of trees to those whose size when mature will not make them a hindrance to the crops.

I am very much interested in the planting of wildlife food patches here and there over the farm, wherever there are odd shaped corners of ground that would be difficult to till in a certain rotation. A strip of food patch or farm grain along the edge of a woods makes ideal feeding conditions for game. The mixture which I am using for my bird-feed patches this year contains sun-flowers, broom corn, sorghum, buckwheat, millet, sudan grass, soybeans, and corn. We fertilize the ground with a complete fertilizer and in the past have broadcast and harrowed in about 6 pounds of seed per acre. This year we shall plant in rows about 18 inches apart in the hope that the corn and soybeans will mature better, and that the sunflowers will make larger heads. Our feed patches have always been well patronized by wildlife, especially pheasants.

Another important factor in caring for wildlife is the provision of refuges where wildlife may escape when hunted too hard. These refuges should provide good food and cover and should be large enough to carry a good sized flock of quail or pheasants, and several rabbits for a matter of days, but should not be large enough to harbor many predators, such as foxes, weasels, and hawks. The refuge should be carefully protected by fire trails, if it is in woodland, and should be surrounded with a single strand of smooth wire, and well marked with signs. Five acres of refuge for 100 acres of farm-land is a good proportion. I like to follow up all these natural means of wildlife care with regular feeding through severe winter weather, such as we have experienced this year. We mix corn, wheat, oats, broom corn, soybeans, sunflower seeds, timothy, and weed seeds cleaned from clover seed. Small amounts of this mixture are placed in shelters, hollow stumps, under wood piles, and under thick, spreading evergreens. The results are most gratifying—well worth the 4 or 5 bushels of grain that we have used.

The main task of a farmer as regards the farm streams is to keep silt out of them by conservation farming, and by stream bank control. The stream will generally take care of itself if that is done, and good clean streams generally mean good fishing, unless there are too many fishermen.

Finally, I would like to discuss this matter of philosophy, education and organization, for upon these elements the whole wildlife

*(Continued on page 25)*

**Hillsides and deep gullies planted to evergreens and other trees and shrubs help prevent erosion and provide havens for wildlife and a continuous op of Christmas trees. The pheasant in the picture, unlucky for him, but lucky for the hunters, did not find refuge in the sanctuary it is ading for.**
Photo by Clinton Ganster.

# "THAT SECOND MILE"

By HERBERT KENDRICK

THE embers in the spacious rock fireplace were quietly dying, and silhouetted shadows shortened as the warm red glow dimmed, leaving the cozy cabin a perfect place for reminiscent memories of pleasant associations with nature down through the years. As I sat, drowsy-eyed, the crowning climax of countless hunts appeared before me in bold retrospect, and became as real as the faithful setter lying at my feet. The years had not been many, and the hunted territory not of too great extent, but crowded nevertheless with adventure that makes an American proud of his heritage. True friends, gallant dogs, exciting action, and always smart game, were the principal characters that played such an important role in the drama I so vividly recalled.

First in this magic parade of unforgettable events, I remember a deer hunt down in a South Carolina wilderness, which was miles away from the nearest town. It was Thanksgiving, and the day was cold and clear, with a sharp penetrating wind whipping out of the damp swamp. Shivering men were placed on favorite stands, while the driver struggled to hold a noisy pack of seasoned deer hounds. The very thought of sitting motionless throughout an entire day, which had scarcely begun, prompted me to procure the driver's permission to beat the brush with him. Very early I wondered if the choice was a wise one. Through rough thick brush, sharp briers, soggy swamps, and over fallen logs, we followed the pack of lazily loping hounds, trying desperately to keep them in range where a routed deer would pass some fortunate hunter at one of the stands.

The territory was ideal for deer, signs were frequent, but all day we hunted without jumping even a doe. Shadows were lengthening, woods were becoming dark, and day was just about done, when the driver suggested we call in the hounds and head for camp. But somehow even tired aching muscles, wet cold feet, nor the realization of a luckless day could prevent my insisting we go on just a little farther. After a brief rest, on we went, and the tired dogs circled our right then came in rather close to a thick clump of sprouts in a small opening in the oak woods, where an old plant bed had been years before.

Like a streamlined streak of lightning two beautiful eight point bucks sprang from their bed and headed toward the deep thicket to our left, leaving themselves vulnerable to easy side shots. The first fell from the deadly charge of buck shot from the right barrel, and thirty feet further the second fell as the left barrel cracked. Both deer had been lying in the same bed, and many sportsmen who have seen the mounted heads say they are identical twins.

Countless times I had returned home from deer hunts and sadly reported, "He was too far away," "The weather was too bad," or have to show where I had lost the end of a perfectly good shirt-tail. But this eventful day in Carolina was an accomplishment and thrill I shall remember long after I have hung up my gun for the last time.

As I stood there that day looking at the two fine trophies, I thought surely there is a jackpot for the nimrod who gets his second wind and goes that second mile in diligent search for his quarry. Lady Luck has furnished many sportsmen with surprising results, but she can not be depended upon to give us the glorifying experiences that live on and on. Sports history delights in recording the events of men who possess a deep sincere love of the outdoors, are of sound mind and body, understand and protect wildlife, are well equipped, hunt frequently and prodigiously, and who voluntarily buckle down when the going gets tough, and go manfully on the second mile where the prize is hidden. These are Nature's sons who win the awards at the finish.

A little bit North of South Carolina when colored leaves were deserting the trees, and the fields had felt damaging frosts more than once, I recorded a quail hunt in my treasured book of memories, that is a shining example of that second mile succ I have hunted quail a number of years, in varied localities—it had never happe before—nor since, but that was the day.

Two fine long range pointers had cove the pea fields, the crab grass, and p studded broom sage on both sides of Sn River, near Old Settler's Bridge in Rocki ham County, and in spite of an ideal c excellent quail-wise dogs, and ample ti nowhere could birds be found. It was p four in the afternoon when we gave it and leisurely drove toward the city. A h mile concrete bridge spanned the river the lowland bottoms less than a mile f the very heart of the little town which home, and many a day I had looked at fields below the bridge and wondered quail would thrive there so close to facto and civilization.

On this day we had failed so misera after insistant persuasion, Pete par the car at the bridge and agreed to until the dogs could cover the comparati small territory. Before I could descend steep embankment, the big pointer making game, and in a tense moment, froze. Jack came in and backed staun at sight of his pointing partner. There were in short cover with tall pines on river bank as a background, and c enough to the busy factories to hear the l of its motors.

Pete was tired and discouraged, and ele to stay in the car, so I loaded the tw and walked slowly and confidently ove the picturesque pointing dogs. The elem suddenly exploded and more than tw feathered targets roared out into the o and as I automatically leveled the ol' do at a pert bobwhite and blazed away I tho I saw several birds fall. The surprise so great I almost missed a late rising hen with the second barrel. I had c heard of many birds being killed with shot as they bunched together to go a small opening, but this covey was spread out, and flying at top speed. J retrieved the first bird, while Jack strug

**Editor's Note: The author, who has hunted and fished all over the country, is an ardent conservationist and dog lover—in fact he has agreed to write a dog column for us monthly beginning with the January issue.**

ng in two at once. Jerry trailed a : down to the river bank and caught the thick honeysuckle, as Jack found fth. Four birds had evidently lined d each received sufficient shot to break ght—and five on the rise with a double as a new and thrilling experience for But—that wasn't all. There were two big coveys down under the bridge, at the city limits. They both flew the river into the thicket, but not each covey had given up two birds.

that day we had hunted hard in a ry where we had always collected, his day a complete failure until the hirty minutes. How easy it would been for us to have missed this unex- l chapter in our exciting serial. Terribly raged, tired, and almost admitting de- I had forced weary muscles to follow ch, and within that second mile, nature urnished one of her sportsmen with a surprising finish.

ave not known many kinds of fishing, n a number of experiences with the tribe, a few in my memory storehouse vell worth remembering. The greatest from fishing did not come with landing usually heavy black bass from a private nor from the smashing attack of el bass on the Atlantic coat. Not even ainbow trout of our swift mountain ns could compare with the one most anding acquirement while fishing a dark stream called Town Creek, down e silvery grey moss hangs lightly from ypress trees, and friendly darkies leave otton fields to paddle your boat up and the little stream.

ese little three pound bronzebacks were nost vicious fish I ever had the good ne to hook onto. They seemed fighting to begin with, and when one felt the hook of an artificial bait, he really off for parts unknown. That summer we caught many more than we kept, rankly it was my only fishing trip when tually became tired of catching fish. e little bass gave me every thrill a fish can furnish because they tried trick in the bag, and each one tried ferent way to keep his freedom and go to his weedy bed. They struck con- ntly with lightning-like fury, usually as plug hit the water.

is rare day of angling is vividly re- bered because it could easily have been ed, had it not been for young ambitious n, coupled with sheer determination to gard the sane advice of others, and press on into the rough places where no paths were broken, and where we found the stream never visited by roadside fishermen. Luck played only a small part that day. We worked hard and searched long enough to find hungry fish, presented them with tempting lures and masterfully displayed the fine art of bringing them into the boat. Again that second mile paid dividends.

An old Uncle in Henry County, Virginia, had told me about finding a hickory grove near Ridgeway and wisely predicted that "come fall," grey squirrel would surely inhabit that spot. Weeks passed and soon the magic valley brightened as the sun warmed woodlands rich with autumn's full colors. For two days I hunted the hills and valleys for the hickories uncle had mentioned, but without success. Any sensible man would have quit, but I came back for a third try, and about three in the afternoon I found the quiet little, well hidden hardwoods. With the twenty-two across my lap I sat quietly and patiently waited. It was not long until an inquisitive little grey head appeared just above the fork of a hickory tree. He quickly surveyed the surroundings and decided all was safe, gave the signal, and in a few seconds the entire wood was alive with busy bushytails. They were engaged in the important work of carrying nuts to their dens, where it is stored for the winter months. Like industrious ants carrying grains of sugar to a hole in the ground, these smart rodents of the hickory ridges were "trucking" one nut at a time from tree to tree until they disappeared in the distant hollow.

It was extremely difficult to select a target; there were so many, but when one stopped to take his nut from the tree, and his head showed in the telescopic sight, the rifle would crack and when he dropped to the ground, everything would vanish, and the trees were still. For a few minutes the stillness would actually make sounds, then they were busy again. Ten was the daily limit in Virginia, but I only took eight, which was possibly more than I should have taken. The remainder of the daylight hour I sat and watched and studied the interesting game. Then as the dark silently enveloped the hunting ground they hurried to their dens; as any laborer after a hard day's work.

It was a great day and I cannot forget that proud bag of game, which was ample reward for the difficult task of second-mile hunting.

Going the limit in this serious business of bagging game almost cost me my life once down in the Carolina pinelands near Pollocksville. This time it was black bear and a 240 pounder had made his way into an almost inpenetrable thicket and disappeared. A tall pine had blown over and rested about twelve feet above the thicket. Armed with the twelve gauge loaded with pumpkin balls, I walked out on the trunk of the fallen tree, hoping to spot bruin below. I should have known this was a case of courting disaster and as I tried to detour around an upright limb, the loose bark slipped, the limb broke, and I fell sprawling into the thicket below, not more than three feet from the hidden bear. Up he reared on his hind feet to challenge this enemy who dared come so close. His fierce growl was sickening, his bazing eyes were murderous, and his powerful arms were outstretched, poised for the kill. In much less time than it requires to relate it. and with some supernatural help I sprang to one knee, and fired the gun before the stock could reach my shoulder. None too soon the chunk of lead found its mark and the big fellow fell in a heap before my frightened, trembling body. That was much too close for comfort, but nevertheless the memory of the chase is unforgettable and the fine rug he made for my den, makes a prize indeed.

After several years of fairly successful quail shooting in the southlands, my business took me to West Virginia, and up until that time I had never seen a ruffed grouse. A hardware salesman showed me a mounted specimen and I foolishly remarked that a man was indeed a poor shot who could not hit such an object, regardless of his tricks and the terrain. Much to my chagrin, I was compelled to more than once eat those words.

Fine sportsmen, who were my neighbors, took me into the woods and tried tirelessly to teach me the fine art, but all proved fruitless. Six times I went after those woodland premiums, and each time not one feather could I show for my labors. They flushed wild, flew straight at me, exploded from under my feet, flushed behind me, dodged behind any bush, tree, rail or stump, or glided noiselessly off a peak and sought

*(Continued on page 27)*

# WANT MORE PHEASANTS?

## *Get Behind the Day-Old Pheasant Chick Program*

WOULD you like to have better pheasant hunting in your neighborhood next fall? One hundred and eleven (111) sportsmen's clubs and individuals have done this by raising day-old pheasant chicks available from the Commission's Game Farms to supplement mature stock released by the Game Commission. During the past season, 45,990 day-old Ringneck pheasant chicks were distributed to farm-game cooperators, sportsmen's organizations and interested individuals. Of this number 9,950 were sent to farm-game cooperators who liberated 51% of the total chicks received. Visits were made to as many of the flocks as possible and it was found that the mortality of birds being raised by sportsmen was almost the same as the mortality of birds being raised by farm-game cooperators. All reports on birds liberated by sportsmen's organizations have not been received yet, but it is logical to assume that a total of over 20,000 pheasants, or 50%, will be liberated by those who received day-old chicks.

Most of the people raising birds this year had no previous experience. Difficulties were encountered in securing high protein feed and wire to build outside yards for the birds. Considering all this, the Commission feels that the clubs and individuals cooperating in the chick program have done a commendable job.

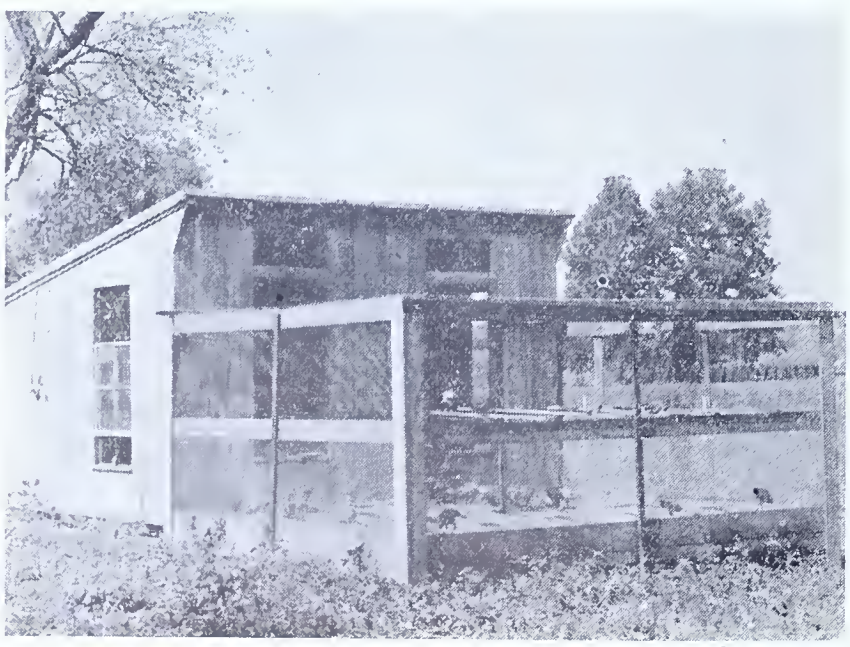
Many clubs have been so successful that they are planning to double their operations for next year. To meet this demand, the number of breeders and the incubator capacity of the game farms will be increased so that it will be possible to supply 100,000 chicks. To facilitate delivery of chicks in eastern Pennsylvania, eggs from the Loyalsock farm will be shipped to the Fisher farm at Schwen ville where they will be hatched.

There are several sportsmen's clubs that have had outstanc success in the rearing of pheasant chicks. One group raised tc weeks of age 91 birds from 100 chicks. Another club liberated 10½ week-old pheasants which had been raised by a commer poultryman from 1000 day-old chicks. Many clubs have libera over 80% of the birds received.

It is not necessary to have expensive houses and equipmen successfully raise phreasant chicks. Anyone who has equipm satisfactory for raising chickens and a brooder house (small chic house usually 10′ x 12′) located so that an outside run can added has everything necessary to brood pheasants. After birds are six to seven weeks of age, it is necessary to place th in a wire covered holding pen where each bird is allotted 23 squ feet of space. These holding pens will be necessary for the com year since the minimum age for liberation will be increased fro weeks to 12 weeks. This gives the bird a much better chanc survival. The birds found in the field are the ones that count, those that are liberated and never heard of again.

The chick program not only aids those interested in better hun conditions, but also any clubs needing pheasants for field ti since those raised from chicks may be used for this purpose.

Anyone interested in obtaining day-old pheasant chicks sh apply through the local game protector. Additional information be found in a new bulletin entitled "Artificial Brooding and Rea of Ringneck Chicks", which has been prepared and will be av able to anyone requesting it.



House used last year for brooding pheasants. Yard on ground is preferable to sun porch shown here.

Holding pen used for pheasants after they are six weeks of age.

# IT DOESN'T PAY!

## By W. C. SHAFFER

*Editor's Note: Mr. Shaffer, Chief of the Division of Law Enforcement of the Game Commission, personally directed the investigation and prosecution of these men who were responsible for one of the most outstanding Game Law violations to come to the attention of the Commission. Ironically, the sudden death of one of the defendants produces a true story, "stranger than fiction," which is related by the author.*

RA SHUTT, of Cameron County, Pennsylvania, had been much sought by nsylvania Game Protectors for the past t years. His apprehension for Game violations on a number of previous nces seemed almost imminent; however, ach case he was able to evade actual ecution. Many good sportsmen have ished confidential information concern- his operations, but for various reasons ned to testify against him. The years 1937 to 1944 slipped away. But early in a few drops of blood on a fresh snow, an's boot, coupled with keen deductions undercover investigation closes a most ing case, likely unparalleled in game enforcement in the country.

is is how it happened:

puty Game Protector Howard K. Han-, of Coudersport, Pennsylvania, while on utine patrol in the vicinity of Moores Sylvania Township, Potter County, nsylvania, kicked up with his boot a spots of blood on a fresh snow during closing hours of December 1944. Back ing, the officer was unable to arrive efinite conclusions. Despite a light snow had fallen, completely obliterating most ne evidence, indications were that two , and possibly a third deer, had recently killed in that immediate vicinity and ved by unknown persons. He put his rs of deduction to work and observed the main traveled highway showed no ular traffic for several previous days. her, he reasoned that the deer must be ealed nearby. The nearest residence was farm house and outbuildings of Olin . Although he and members of his ly had killed a number of deer each as a protection to crops, they had r been suspected of any unlawful ac- es. Despite these conflicting factors, ock was convinced that the deer that been killed were taken to the Rees erty.

was not until the morning of January 1 Hancock could obtain a search warrant the Rees residence, as his discoveries made late the previous Saturday ing. A lawful search for game cannot ade in Pennsylvania on Sunday. After ning a search warrant, he solicited the f Arthur G. Logue, District Game Pro- r in charge of that district, a veteran more than 20 years of service, who s most of the tricks employed by the ws. Game Protector Cecil Hancock, a er, also assisted.

### *Rees Property Searched*

riving at the Rees home shortly after on January 1, Game Protector Logue, senior officer, assumed charge of the tigation. He was also well acquainted all members of the Rees family. The on of the officers was first discussed the landowner and his wife. They atically denied any knowledge of any having been killed on their property further denied that any unlawful deer were to be found on the premises. Wayne Rees, a son, was also at home at the time the officers arrived.

Despite the denials of the Rees family, a detailed search of the dwelling was made but no evidence was found.

A search of the barn followed. Game Protector Logue keenly observed deer hair and fresh tallow on a rope, which, from the physical evidence, revealed that it had recently been used to haul a deer. The elder Rees denied that the rope had been used for any unlawful purpose, declaring that it had been recently used in the killing of a beef.

The search continued to several other outbuildings without any positive findings.

A 1938 Packard sedan was standing in the yard at the Rees home. Game Protector Logue opened the door and in the back of the car recovered a man's jacket on which he also found some deer hair. He took the garment into the house. Wayne Rees admitted ownership but denied any knowledge of the deer hair. He attempted to convince the officers that the hair was from a cow. In the meantime the assisting officers had continued with their search of the automobile. In the back, the seat had been removed. A tarpaulin covered the entire rear compartment. When it was lifted they found ten bushels of potatoes covering parts of four deer. Three of the animals had been severed in half while the hind quarter of a fawn deer was also found. Brown building paper separated the layers of meat.

Confronted with this evidence, twenty-two year old Wayne Rees admitted that he had killed the four deer, within two hours, on the afternoon of December 28, 1944. All were killed within a half mile of his home, along Moores Run. Rees, who was shaving at the time the officers arrived, admitted he intended to leave within a half hour to sell the potatoes that were found in the automobile. He denied that he had planned to sell the venison but did admit it was his intention to give the venison to some of his friends. He stated that the deer had been dressed out in the woods and the entrails, skins and heads had been left where the animals had been killed. These could not be found, he said, because of the heavy fall of snow. He further revealed that three of the animals were doe deer while the fourth was a button buck. No information could be secured from him as to the disposition of the remainder of the carcass of the fawn.

### *Wayne Rees Prosecuted*

The Rees family bears a good reputation in the vicinity in which they reside. The father, Olin Rees, suffered from a broken leg and was on crutches at the time the search was made. This situation reacted favorably for the accused. The officers felt that if he were to be penalized for the unlawful killing of two of the animals, justice would be served. He was arraigned before

*Turn page*

* Reprinted courtesy Everybody's Weekly Magazine of The Philadelphia Inquirer.

Above are the heads of some of the bucks killed by the venison bootleggers.

Justice of the Peace F. J. Wandall at Coudersport, admitted the unlawful possession of the animals, and was fined $2 00, together with costs of prosecution amounting to $8. His father paid the fines and costs and gained his release.

### *Officers Continue Investigation*

The officers were convinced that there was considerably more to the startling discoveries in the Rees automobile than was indicated on the surface. Game Protector Logue, who was on special assignment on other duty out of his district, was required to abandon his personal efforts in the case but instructed Deputy Game Protector Hancock and his brother as to the best manner in which to continue their investigation.

It was not long until these officers, working day and night, learned that the long sought Ezra Shutt had been seen in the company of Rees on innumerable occasions quite recently. The lead gave great promise.

The premises of Ezra Shutt, who owns a small farm of approximately 140 acres in Grove Township, Cameron County, was searched at the request of Deputy Game Protector Hancock by Game Protector Max Ostrum, of Emporium, Cameron County, and Fish Warden Close, of the same town, on January 2, 1945. At that time these two officers discovered a seven-point buck deer that had been brought to their attention by the caretaker. The carcass was badly decomposed and rodents had eaten quite a sizeable portion of the carcass. The physical appearance of the carcass indicated that the animal had been killed during early November. The caretaker denied that he knew who had killed the animal.

The officers launched an intensive two-way investigation which revealed that Ezra Shutt spent irregular portions of his time for the past three or four years at the farm residence of Lawrence Wheeler in Sylvania Township, Potter County, Pennsylvania. It was also discovered that he had been maintaining social relations with one of the daughters.

### *History of Ezra Shutt*

Ezra Vernon Shutt was born August 2, 1916 in Grove Township, Cameron County, Pennsylvania; the son of Lester Marion Shutt and Clulla Shutt. At the mother's death in 1935, he acquired through her will the farm in Grove Township, which he continued to farm on a small scale, retaining a temporary residence at the farm house.

Following the death of his mother, Ezra made his home with a distant relative and at her death acquired some money and a piece of property.

He traveled considerably through the South and West. Shutt was well known in the vicinity of Austin, Costello and Coudersport in Potter County, and Emporium in Cameron County.

He had no known bad habits, was thrifty; and if we are to believe our informants, his thrift had reached almost the painful stage. Judging from bank book entries recovered from his personal effects, he was financially comfortable. Firearms were one of his fantasies. Keen in many respects, dull in others, he was a poor conversationalist. Secrecy marked his movements and financial transactions.

Shutt, who was 5 feet 8 inches in height, weighed 136 pounds, brown hair and blue eyes, was unmarried, and who claimed farming, dairying and trapping as his occupations, has hunted and fished since early youth. He was reputed to be a splendid shot, particularly with a rifle, and a good fisherman.

The officers' investigations disclosed that he would stay for brief periods of time at his Cameron County property, then take up a residence in a room at the Wheeler farm for indefinite periods of time. On most occasions he would stay but a few days at a location, absent himself without knowledge of his friends as to his whereabouts, and be gone from several days to even months.

### *Wheeler Farm Seached*

With information secured from innumerable sources, the officers felt justified in searching the premises of Henry Lawrence Wheeler, a farmer residing in Sylvania Township, Potter County, Pennsy Wheeler is a man 60 years of age, a good reputation. He was not known t game of any specie. The Wheeler fa located approximately a mile and or south of the Rees property, on Pennsy Legislative Route 52002.

On the morning of January 9, 1945, Protectors Howard and Cecil Hancoc companied by Fish Warden Teal Cox, a search warrant on Mr. Wheeler home. Wheeler denied any knowle either the killing or possession of d his property and told the officers to ' anywhere they cared to." They invit to accompany them on the search, ho he declined.

A search of the residence revealed n dence except that in one of the bed occupied by Shutt nineteen rifles, sh and pistols were found, together wit stores of ammunition and other p effects. Wheeler contended these we property of Ezra Shutt.

Continuing their search, in the rear abandoned farm house, situated across the road from the Wheeler re and on the same property, the office covered the head of a freshly killed buck. Wheeler, when confronted wi finding, continued to deny that he h knowledge that it had been on his p and stated that he knew nothing con its killing.

A cattle barn is located on the no side of the lane leading to the W property from the township road building was searched with negative The hay barn, on the opposite side road, was next searched with simila ings.

Attached to the hay barn, on the west side, is a "lean-to" shed approx twenty feet in width and forty-five length. At the highest point it is a mately eighteen feet, sloping to a dist approximately ten feet at the low When the officers attempted to gain e to the shed they found it to be Wheeler was again summoned and a open the building. He stated to the that he did not have a key to the sh plaining that three or four years a Shutt had agreed to put a new roof shed, and sought permission to use automobile storage. Wheeler added had not been in the buildings for ye no property or business in the shed a sequently knew nothing of its conte operative, he obtained a hammer officers and in his presence they the staples which held the hasp in

Once inside the shed the officer astounding discoveries. The buildi tained an unlicensed 1937 Ford sec condition indicated it had not be for some time. In front of the au the officers observed a large piece of Beneath it they found—three buck a ruffed grouse—and a rabbit. On officers noticed a hole, approximate feet square, had been cut along of the floor of the loft overhead. provised ladder was standing near searching party proceeded to the lo they made even more startling dis The carcasses of three buck deer, wi attached, were hanging to the fastened with heavy wire. Three a

c casses, from which the heads and hind arters had been removed, were also dis-ered. Two additional sets of antlers from shly killed buck deer were found in the ne loft. An antler analysis revealed that findings of the searching party had ac-nted for one eight inch spike buck, one r-point buck, four six-point bucks, two ht-point bucks and one twelve-point ck. In total, the officers had in their ssession the carcasses, or parts thereof, m twelve illegally killed deer. Wheeler tinued his denials that he had knowledge the carcasses or who was responsible for cing them in the shed.

*Other Amazing Discoveries*

In the "lean-to" shed the officers found a ss of property consisting of large quanti-s of gasoline, in five gallon cans, twenty-e new and recapped automobile tires, bes, railroad fusees, railroad caps, dyna-ting fuse, tire retreading tools, large antities of oil, copper wire, flashlight bat-ies, a stove, a block and tackle, canned getables and fruits, and even a manicuring t. Shutt, it appeared, like a young crow "picked up everything he saw." These dings, coupled with the discoveries made Shutt's room at the Wheeler residence, oused the officers' suspicions that some of e property might be stolen goods.

While the assisting officers were in charge the property, Deputy Game Protector oward Hancock drove to the hamlet of ustin, about four miles distant, and tele-oned Sheriff Ned Clark of his findings. t the Sheriff's direction, Deputy Hancock lled the Honorable Robert R. Lewis, Presi-ent Judge of Potter County. Judge Lewis rected the Sheriff, together with members the Pennsylvania State Police to seize all roperty on the premises and remove it to e county jail at Coudersport. It was then iscovered that Shutt owned and was perating three autombiles—a 1941 Packard edan, a 1940 Plymouth coach, and a 1937 ord pick-up truck, all of which were li-ensed. He was also the owner of four or ve other automobiles which were not censed.

Sheriff Clark and Corporal George Auten, f the Pennsylvania State Police, arrived ater in the afternoon and took custody of the contents of the "lean-to" shed, the rifles, revolvers and shotguns in Shutt's room and also a trunk. The trunk, when opened, revealed a number of bank books, personal letters and papers, eight leather pocketbooks, and between $250 and $300 in coins and currency. Later discovery revealed that Shutt also owned a Winchester 270 rifle, a 22 Hornet rifle, and a 38 pistol, which were not recovered on these premises.

All of the property, except the illegal deer, was taken to the county jail subject to further investigation.

The operators maintained a small arsenal.

*Rearrest of Wayne Rees Ordered*

On September 23, 1943 Wayne Rees, who had plead guilty to the larceny of lumbering tools, was placed on parole by the Court of Quarter Sessions of Potter County for a period of two years, ending September 23, 1945. His conviction for violation of the Game Laws caused him to break the conditions of his parole and Judge Lewis issued a bench warrant for his rearrest. He was committed to the Potter County jail to await the disposition of the Court.

*Wheeler Prosecuted*

Wheeler's lack of knowledge of the deer on his premises was unconvincing and he was prosecuted for the unlawful possession of two of the twelve deer that were cached on his premises. Admitting his guilt, he paid a fine of $200 and costs of $8.

*Ezra Shutt Flees*

Warrants for the arrest of Ezra Shutt, for violations of the Game Law, were issued by Justice of the Peace Wandall. When officers went to his usual haunts they were unable to effect his arrest. They learned that he had left the Wheeler farm about 1:00 P.M. on the afternoon of January 1, 1945, and at the time of his departure was driving his 1937 Ford pick-up truck. His destination, as usual, was unknown. It appears that he was quick to learn of the arrest of his friend Rees, and also of the seizures made by Game Protectors and the State Police on the Wheeler farm. He later revealed that he had left Emporium, by train, on January 11, 1945, and fled to Harrisburg for "advice" and "financial assistance" from some of his hunting companions whom he has guided for years. During his concealment, attempts were made to influence officers of the Commission to settle all of the charges pending against him for the sum of $1,000. This offer was flatly rejected.

Through confidential sources, officers on January 13 learned that Shutt was enroute to Emporium and arrived there early on Sunday morning, January 14.

*Tompkins Defends Shutt*

When Shutt arrived in Emporium on January 14, he immediately went to the office of Edwin W. Tompkins, an attorney-at-law, who is also the District Attorney of Cameron County. Later on the same date Mr. Tompkins, in a conference with Game Protector Logue, admitted the fact that Shutt had spent considerable time in his office that morning and was anxious to settle the cases that were pending against

(Continued on page 26)

Some of the animals revealed by the searching party.

# PROPAGATION AND DISTRIBUTION RECOMMENDATIONS

*(Based Upon Suggestions Submitted to Commission By Its Employes and Others Interested on September 7 1944 and Approved June 28, 1945, With Additions and Changes Authorized by the Commission Since That Time Shown in Italics)*

## GENERAL POLICY

**Early History**—In order to develop and maintain a sufficient game crop in the State, or to introduce new species, the Commission has made releases since 1906 on grounds open to public hunting, or on areas entirely closed to shooting. Prior to 1915 such releases were limited, and consisted mostly of deer to stock refuges. Some quail also had been imported. Large stocking programs were undertaken after the hunter's license revenue became available, consisting mostly of pheasants, quail and rabbits. **All such game was released for propagation purposes just** before the breeding season.

**Farms Established**—Until 1928, the Commission relied entirely upon purchased game for restocking purposes, but due to increased prices and the decreased supply available it was decided to supplement purchases with birds raised by the Commission. Accordingly, pheasant eggs were supplied to Refuge Keepers equipped with proper facilities. This system was continued until shortly after the establishment of the State Game Farms—the Jordan State Game Farm and the Fisher State Game Farm in 1929, the State Wild Turkey Farm in 1930, and the Loyalsock State Game Farm in 1933.

At first the birds were not raised mechanically, but shortly after 1931, when artificial incubation and brooding of pheasants was carried out experimentally through the cooperation of the Pennsylvania State College, the Commission changed over to artificial methods. Originally only ringneck pheasants were raised, but in 1932, with equipment donated by the DuPont Company, a bobwhite quail propagation program was inaugurated at the Fisher Farm.

During 1930, the Commission started its wild turkey propagation where the birds were raised on free range at the Turkey Farm, and in 1933 the system of raising turkeys was changed to mechanical methods. Another and most important change was made in 1936, when several wild turkey mating areas were established from which eggs produced by wild-mated farm hens were utilized.

**Releasing Periods**—At first all propagated birds were liberated during the summer and fall at ages of from six to twelve weeks, but the results obtained from releasing immature birds, especially those only six-weeks old, were unsatisfactory. In 1935 the policy was changed and cock pheasants were retained until spring in an effort to aid in equalizing the sex ratio and reducing fall and winter mortality of the cocks. This policy of holding the birds over winter was expanded and by 1940 nearly all of the stock, both male and female, was released as adults in the early spring.

*NOTE: The Commission has since changed this policy to read as follows. In the northern half of the State, two-thirds of the birds to be released in the fall and one-third in the spring. In the southern half of the State, one-third in the fall and two-thirds in the spring.*
*This tends to give the pheasants in the wild the greatest chance to reproduce.*
*Only surplus quail are released in the fall as spring restocking is by far the most satisfactory.*
*As to the turkeys, all hens are held until spring, but the surplus toms are released in the fall at 16 weeks of age.*

**Farms Specializing on Single Species**—In the past, propagation of ringneck pheasants, Reeve's pheasants, bobwhite quail, ruffed grouse chukar partridges, Hungarian partridges, wild turkeys, and cottontail rabbits has been tried, usually several species at each farm, but because it was either economically unfeasible or the stock did not succeed in the wild, the present policy of raising only ringneck pheasants, bobwhite quail, and wild turkeys was adopted. Furthermore, a policy of **raising only one species at a given farm** was adopted, and at present ringneck pheasants are propagated at the Jordan and Loyalsock Farms while the Fisher Farm is devoted to bobwhite quail and wild turkeys are raised at the State Wild Turkey Farm.

*NOTE: Due to labor conditions, propagation has been curtailed at the farms since 1942. However, we hope to be back to normal in 1946.*

**Purchases From Breeders**—To encourage private breeders the Commission in 1937 decided to again make large-scale purchases of pheasants and quail annually in the open market to supplement the stock produced on the game farms and to negotiate contracts annually in advance of the breeding season so that the successful bidders might know how many birds to raise. This had the effect of placing a "cushion" under those who were willing to raise pheasants and quail, and encourage more game breeding within the Commonwealth.

**Trapping and Transfer**—In order to further augment the supply of game for liberation and to remove animals from over-populated areas or sections where they were causing damage, an experimental program of live trapping and releasing native cottontails was instituted in southeastern Pennsylvania in 1928. This system then was tried in other sections of the state and proved so satisfactory that a statewide campaign was conducted in 1937. The program has steadily grown, and now over 30,000 cottontails and 2,000 pheasants are secured annually. This program can be greatly expanded after the war.

*NOTE: Last year over 40,000 rabbits were trapped.*

*Day-Old Chick Program—Last year the Commission decided to curtail the six-week-old program and offer in its place day-old chicks to sportsmen's organizations. Over 45,000 were shipped from the Jordan and Loyalsock Farms. The results were so gratifying the Commission decided to try and increase the program next year to over 100,000 chicks and will probably discontinue the six-week-old program because changed conditions make it no longer practical. Since the Commission has decided to release part of the game farm produced birds in the fall, the total number of pheasants released prior to the shooting season can be greatly increased if all groups will cooperate on the day-old chick program. Birds produced from day-old chicks may all be released prior to the shooting season, while only two-thirds of those raised from six-week-old birds by groups may be released prior to the hunting season. The holding pens which were constructed by the organizations are needed in the day-old chick program. Therefore, under such a revised plan there would be no waste of time or material.*

## A. GAME FARM OPERATIONS—1. Fisher State Game Farm

| Current Practices | Immediate Changes Recommended | Future Program Recommendations |
|---|---|---|
| This farm is devoted to the propagation of bobwhite quail, and has a capacity production of 12,000 to 14,000 adult birds. It is the practice to incubate, hatch, and brood the chicks artificially and all stock is reared and held on wire. The majority of the chicks are reared to six weeks of age in large brooder houses, but some colony-type brooder houses are used.<br>At six weeks the chicks are removed to holding pens where they remain until shipped for liberation. Two types of holding pens are used; the small type accommodating 25 birds, and a large enclosure designed to hold 400 quail. The latter type pen is superior because it permits flying, reduces picking, reduces feeding and maintenance labor, and produces healthier, stronger quail. It has a possible disadvantage in that if a virulent disease strikes it may result in loss of all birds in the pen; however, the losses **to date in the large enclosures have been less than in the small type.**<br>To utilize covered pheasant holding fields during the balance of their serviceability, it has been the practice to ship 5,000 to 7,000 twelve-week-old cock pheasants from the Loyalsock Farm to the Fisher Farm for over-winter holding and subsequent release in southeastern sections. (These pens are now practically worn out).<br>Modern farming practices are carried on in order to produce as much food as possible and to maintain the tilled land in proper condition. | None.<br><br>*NOTE: Incubators now at the Fisher Farm will be used to hatch day-old chicks for sportsmen and cooperators in the eastern part of the State, the eggs to be shipped from Jordan and Loyalsock Farms.* | Construct sufficient number of large sized holding pens to accommodate all quail being held for releasing purposes.<br>Construct large utility building for efficient food and equipment storage; build a central electric control house and rearrange current distribution; refrain from trying to raise more quail than equipment can safely handle; **and do not expand the quail production program until certain that the released birds are producing the desired results.** |

. GAME FARM OPERATIONS—2. Jordan State Game Farm

| Current Practices | Immediate Changes Recommended | Future Program Recommendations |
|---|---|---|
| he Jordan Farm, solely a ringneck pheasant plant, has a production capacity of approximately 15,000 adult birds. The hatching nd brooding is done artificially and the chicks are raised to six seven weeks of age in individual colony brooder houses where e birds have daily access to small brooder fields. They are then laced in large, covered holding-fields until shipped for release.<br>n order to maintain the tillable land in proper condition and to rcduce as much feed on the farm as possible, modern farming ethods are employed. | *NOTE: A new 35,000 capacity incubator to take care of the day-old chick program in the western part of the State is on order.* | Build new brooder houses to replace those now unfit for use; dismantle worn-out covered holding fields and salvage whatever material possible; remove building no longer serviceable located behind Assistant Superintendent's dwelling; ditch and tile farm roads; and on an experimental basis, establish a short cut sod in one of the covered holding fields.<br>Construct a stone-based gravel road that will permit travel at all seasons; build new covered holding fields; refrain from overcrowding facilities by trying to raise more pheasants than wise use of the available equipment will permit.<br>Completely separate breeders and breeding operations (preferably at another site from hatching, rearing, and holding operations) so as to avoid disease dangers by keeping the two generations from coming into contact with each other.<br>*NOTE: A new farm will be established in the western part of the state because over one-half of the land on the Jordan Farm is unsuitable for propagation and expansion is impossible.* |

. GAME FARM OPERATIONS—3. Loyalsock State Game Farm

| Current Practices | Immediate Changes Recommended | Future Program Recommendations |
|---|---|---|
| his year the farm, for the first time, has been devoted solely to e production of ringneck pheasants and has a normal operating pacity of from 15,000 to 17,000 adult birds. Previously it had been e practice to raise quail, grouse, chukar partridges, and Hungarian rtridges in addition to ringneck pheasants.<br>he operation practices are essentially the same as those outlined nder the Jordan Farm.<br>n an experimental basis, a covered holding field has been converted permanent close-cut sod, but since the field has just been tablished no results can be reported. | Continue the present policy of limiting the production to one species. | Facilities and equipment on this farm in fair condition and no major construction or development needed.<br>Refrain from overcrowding available facilities and completely separate the breeders and breeding operations from production operations to reduce disease dangers. |

. GAME FARM OPERATIONS—4. State Wild Turkey Farm

| Current Practices | Immediate Changes Recommended | Future Program Recommendations |
|---|---|---|
| his farm deals solely with the production of wild turkeys, and e incubating capacity is 3,400 eggs.<br>e current practice has been to raise birds from eggs secured from lected farm breeders and from hens mated by wild toms in the ild Turkey Propagating Areas. This method of securing wild ood has greatly increased their quality, and they are at present strain of which the Commission can be very proud.<br>e hatching and brooding are done artificially and the chicks are arted in a large brooder house with available wire-floored sun rches. When the birds are four weeks old, they are transferred individual colony brooder houses with small brooder fields ailable to the poults. When eight weeks old the birds are ansferred to two to three-acre enclosed conditioning ranges with anding wheat, clover, and wooded areas. The birds remain in ese hardening fields until October, at which time most of the ung toms are shipped for distribution and the hens are moved enclosed winter holding pens approximately fifty acres in size, here they are retained until distributed for restocking in the ring.<br>*NOTE: This spring the farm was moved from Juniata County to Lycoming County. The new farm has an area of 1400 acres with 100 acres of flat sandy loam soil, which is most desirable for propagation. Another farm of 60 acres was also leased about two miles above the turkey farm to be used only for the breeders. This will keep all the old turkeys off the regular farm and should help counteract the disease problem. Due to conditions this spring, the hatching and brooding was done at the Loyalsock Farm, but in 1946 all operations will be on the new location.* | Because the present site is not satisfactory for large scale artificial propagation of wild turkeys, plans are being formulated to relocate the farm and a new site or sites obtained as soon as possible.<br>Complete construction and operation plans are being formulated for farm facilities capable of raising a maximum of 5,000 adult turkeys for spring release.<br>Utilize, on an experimental basis, lights in an effort to bring the breeding birds into earlier production.<br>*NOTE: The Commission has purchased 40 new brooder houses for 1946 with 20 more to be added for 1947. This will be a capacity of 7500 poults to the brooders. The present incubator at the Jordan Farm, which has a capacity of 10,000 turkey eggs, will be moved to the turkey farm.* | Establish a complete turkey propagation unit capable of producing a maximum 5,000 adult high quality turkeys for release; completely segregate all breeding operations from the production operations so there will be no opportunity of carrying diseases from one generation to another; use a large type brooder house in which temperature control of the individual brooding compartments is possible and each unit is supplied with suitable wire-floored sun porch.<br>In the fall ship birds to fenced areas in refuges where all, except toms to be released in the fall, will be held until ready for spring liberation.<br>At all times keep production well within the safe capacity limits of the available equipment. |

GAME FARM OPERATIONS—5. Wild Turkey Propagation Areas

| Current Practices | Immediate Changes Recommended | Future Program Recommendations |
|---|---|---|
| ere are now 21 wild turkey propagation areas, each approximately ght acres in size, constructed in the heart of wild turkey range.<br>e majority of these enclosures are used for collection of eggs oduced by farm-reared hens that have been bred by wild toms. rmally, approximately 15 hens are placed in each enclosure ring the late winter.<br>e remainder of the areas have been utilized as restocking units der a plan whereby both hens and toms are liberated in the closures and are permitted to raise their own broods and disperse the surrounding territory.<br>order to guard against possible disease infection, a rotation stem is employed under which pens are not used for more than o years in succession. Each area contains food plots and the rds are given every care while in the enclosure. | None.<br>*NOTE: The old turkey farm in Juniata County will be used experimentally as a wild propagation area. Suitable number of hens to be released on the farm and the young to be trapped and moved to suitable holding areas in that section.* | It is recommended that we do not greatly expand the turkey propagation area program as currently established, as we now have a sufficient number to meet production needs. Construction of pens of comparable size and cost for the sole purpose of getting wild turkeys established in new areas is not justified, especially if birds of the right quality are released.<br>Experiment with a smaller type enclosure constructed so that the birds cannot see through the fencing. |

## B. GAME PURCHASED

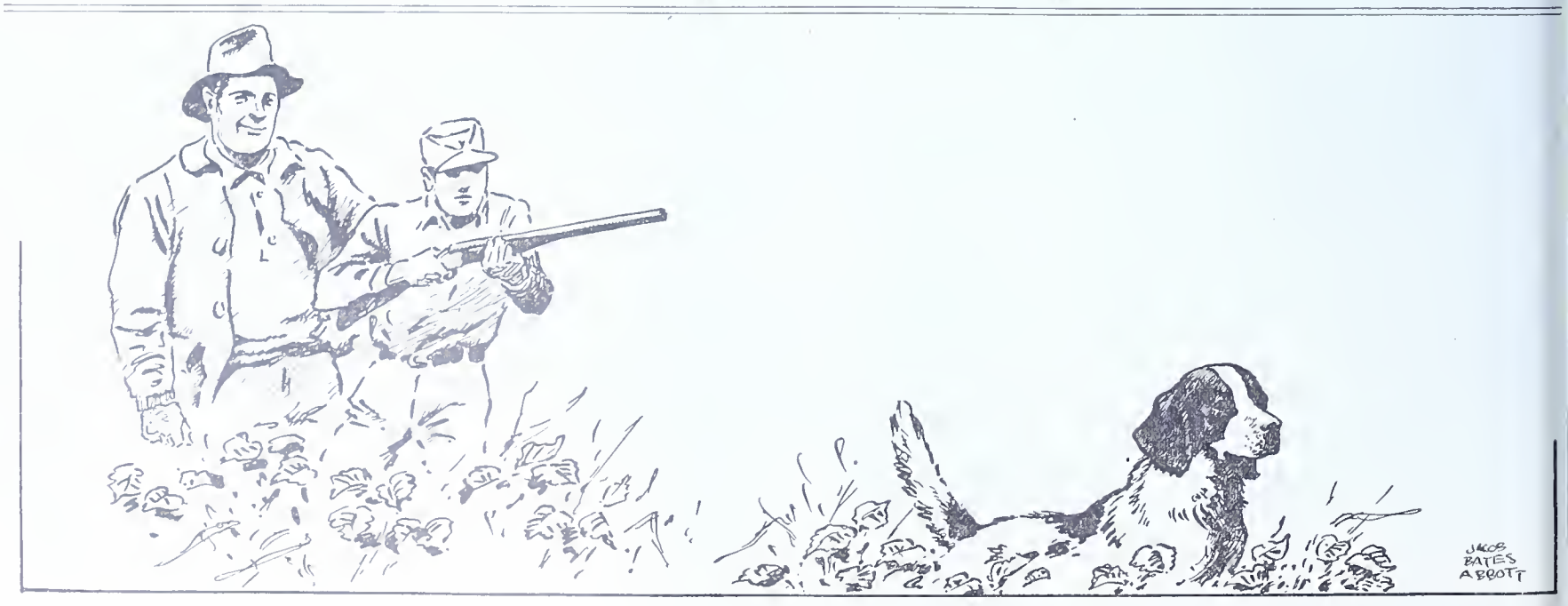
| Current Practices | Immediate Changes Recommended | Future Program Recommendations |
|---|---|---|
| During the past few years it has been the practice to purchase annually approximately 30,000 cotton-tail rabbits, 20,000 ringneck pheasants, and 10,000 bobwhite quail for restocking purposes. Since 1940, it was the policy to make contracts in the spring of each year covering the delivery of mature pheasants and quail roughly one year later. This year, however, contracts were let during the spring for delivery of pheasants and quail between September 1 and October 5 of the same year at ages of not less than ten weeks.<br>Due to existing conditions, no live trapped rabbits were purchased last season.<br>*NOTE: 40,000 rabbits were trapped and released this year.* | Since research has conclusively proved that native live-trapped rabbits are superior for release purposes, and help to relieve damage complaints in urban areas, **it is recommended that the Commission expand the rabbit trapping program and also purchase western rabbits when they are needed and local conditions warrant.** | Inaugurate a system whereby Commission personnel can furnish valuable technical advisory assistance to game propagators within the Commonwealth.<br>Continue purchasing stock from private breeders and expand State Game Farm facilities. Average cost of purchased stock is comparable to cost of raising on our farms, sometimes lower. |

## C. LIVE TRAPPING AND TRANSFER OF WILD GAME

| Current Practices | Immediate Changes Recommended | Future Program Recommendations |
|---|---|---|
| In 1937 a statewide live trapping program was inaugurated which has produced excellent results. During the winter and early spring, cottontail rabbits, ringneck pheasants, bobwhite quail, raccoons, and squirrels are live trapped on propagation areas, or other sections where they are causing damage or are too numerous. The animals are then immediately released on areas open to public shooting.<br>These trapping and releasing activities are supervised locally by Commission employes, and in addition to their own trapping activities, each District Protector has a number of appointed agents who either donate their services or are paid 50¢ per rabbit, 75¢ per pheasant and $1.00 per raccoon delivered in good condition. Traps are generally supplied by the Commission, but in cases where traps are built by Boy Scouts or youth groups, a rate of 60¢ per rabbit is paid.<br>The program has expanded to the point that annually approximately 30,000 rabbits and 2,000 pheasants are secured. Generally, the game is released in the same county in which trapped, but recently some exchanges have been made interdivisionally. | Expand the program through improved operating organization; encourage more use of the drive and netting system of securing cottontails; distribute the trapped game inter-divisionally as needed to best serve the Commission's objectives. | Expand the program so that 75,000 to 100,000 rabbits are secured annually and rely upon this source to supply all the cottontails for release; better organize the trapping campaign and have one person responsible for carrying it; continue the practice of securing rabbits and other game from propagation areas, water sheds, parks, municipalities, nurseries, etc., but do not buy special lands to be used as rabbit propagation areas; develop and manage live trapping areas on State Game Lands where possible, especially if the supply from other areas within a division is insufficient.<br>**The cost to the Commisison for rabbits, pheasants and other transferred small game is much lower than prices at which inferior stock of the same species can be purchased, and the money is spent within the Commonwealth.** |

## D. GAME DISTRIBUTION

| Current Practices | Immediate Changes Recommended | Future Program Recommendations |
|---|---|---|
| During the past few years, approximately 50,000 ringneck pheasants, 20,000 adult quail, 60,000 cottontail rabbits, 5,000 Hungarian partridges, and 1,200 wild turkeys have been liberated annually as adults in the winter or early spring on areas open to public hunting, or on sections where absolutely no shooting is permitted<br>This season no Hungarian partridges were released and the stock of approximately 2,000 held at the Loyalsock Farm was traded for 4,000 wild-trapped South Dakota ringneck pheasants used for distribution in northern sections and for new breeders at the farms.<br>Approximately 10,000 pheasant eggs, 20,000 day-old pheasants, 18,000 six-week-old pheasants, 100 quail eggs, and 1,500 six-week-old quail are normally supplied annually to sportsmen's organizations, Farm-Game Cooperators, and private individuals for raising and subsequent release where public shooting is permitted.<br>**It has been the practice to liberate the game only on areas supporting the types of feed and cover required for the welfare of the species in question, and the number of "good-will" releases has been held at a minimum.**<br>This season, due to existing conditions, it was decided to release nearly all of the pheasants and bobwhite quail before October 5, at ages of from ten to twelve weeks. A number of cock pheasants will be held for release immediately after the shooting season.<br>*NOTE: Approximately 7,000 pheasant eggs, 50,000 day-old pheasants, 10,000 six-week-old pheasants and 500 six-week-old quail were supplied this year to sportsmen's organizations, farm-game cooperators and private individuals for raising and subsequent release where public shooting is permitted.* | Inaugurate a banding program in an effort to determine at what age and season of the year stocking produces the best results. | Distributing game in areas where it does not reproduce properly, or releasing large quantities prior to the shooting season merely to supply gun fodder, is not recommended, except when emergency conditions prevail as at present.<br>Do not expand the current stocking program but revamp the distribution so that releases may be concentrated upon areas supporting suitable habitat where the species has not become established, or where it has been too drastically reduced through hunting pressure.<br>Inaugurate Commission control of all game released within the Commonwealth, whether publicly or privately purchased. |



# WELL, WHAT'S WRONG?

Answers on Page 32.

# ★ ★ ★ CURRENT TOPICS ★ ★ ★

Nelson E. Slaybaugh, left, Chief of the Division of Accounting and Budget, receiving from Roy V. Eckert, Accountant, the first bond purchased in the current drive by office employees of the Commission. The presentation was made at a dinner celebration sponsored by Mrs. Slaybaugh in honor of her husband's having completed 25 years of service with the Commission. Employees of Mr. Slaybaugh's division, other department heads and close friends of the guest of honor were present.

## Predator Problem on Fair Road to Solution

Pennsylvania's accumulated predator problem seems to be on a fair road to solution, due to extensive trapping instructions given to game protectors, interested sportsmen, farmers, and others during the past two years, new bounty rates, etc.

Bounty claims, for example, especially on foxes, have more than tripled during November this year as compared to the same period in 1944, and no let-up in the number of pelts submitted is anticipated.

This November $30,878.00 has been paid out in bounties—more than three times the amount ($5,677.50) spent during November last year. Of this amount $13,546, or 44% of the total, was paid to nine counties alone, i.e. Green, $2,366; Bradford, $1,941; Tioga, $1,884; Potter, $1,797; Susquehanna, $1,231; Wayne, $1,129; Centre, $1,120; McKean, $1,060; and Lycoming, $1,018.

Foxes submitted last month numbered 7,243, about 75% of the total number (10,019) sent in since the beginning of the fiscal year June 1.

Other principal factors which are influencing the unusually large kill of foxes are:

1. The $4.00 bounty which was placed on the red fox last july.
2. Foxes generally have increased since the beginning of the war because they were not hunted or trapped extensively during that period.
3. More trappers are running trap-lines now that they have been discharged from the armed services or relieved from full-time war jobs.

In one day recently more than 1200 foxes were received and more than $5,000 was paid on foxes and other predators for which a reward is offered.

At present $4.00 is paid for both red and gray foxes, $1.00 for weasels, $2.00 for adult goshawks, $1.00 for goshawk fledglings, $4.00 for adult Great Horned Owls and $2.00 for Great Horned Owl Fledglings.

---

## DEERSKINS STILL NEEDED

Deerskins are needed to make gloves and other essential battle equipment for our armed forces as much in peace times as in wartimes and none should be wasted. They may be legally sold within 90 days after the close of the season. Local fur dealers, hide buyers, and taxidermists are usually willing to purchase them, or they can be sold to tanneries.

Rather than let any go to waste the Commission will take them off the hands of persons who do not wish to bother with them if they will be kind enough to turn them over to a Game Protector. In such instances the Commission will sell them along with the hides of illegally killed deer and the proceeds will go into the Game Fund for the use of all the sportsmen.

**A new free leaflet on how to skin, dress out and butcher a deer; how to keep meat, cure, pickle, dry or can it; how to tan the hide, etc., can be secured from any Game Protector or from the Commission at Harrisburg.**

## BARRY LOCKE PASSES

S. Barry Locke, well known in the conservation movement, passed away quietly in his sleep on Oct. 11 in his hotel room in Chicago. He had been recently transferred from his regional directorship in the Fish and Wildlife Service's Boston office to become assistant coordinator of river basin studies for the Service. He was 60 years of age. A wife and one daughter, Mrs. Donovan Worland, survive.

Barry Locke was one of conservations most profound thinkers. He had been connected with the U. S. Forest Service, the Izaak Walton League, as its executive officer, and upon leaving there was inducted into the Fish and Wildlife Service. He brought to each position a splendid mental equipment for the work and was regarded by his associates as sound and progressive. His analysis of wildlife problems always went to the root of the trouble and he usually pointed to the path that held solution.

---

## Wildlife Management at The Pennsylvania State College

In 1938 The Pennsylvania Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit was set up at The Pennsylvania State College. The program is now in its seventh year. From the beginning the Unit has been sponsored and financed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission, The Pennsylvania State College, The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and The American Wildlife Institute. The sponsors of the Pennsylvania Unit had three objectives for the Unit program, namely; 1. carrying on of research that provides information for the better management of our wildlife resources, 2. dissemination of educational information to the public concerning wise care and use of our wildlife resources, and 3. training of men in the field of Wildlife Management.

To enter work at The Pennsylvania State College the applicant must be a graduate of a high school or the equivalent and be able to pass the customary entrance requirements.

Students intending to pursue a field that prepares them for a career in Wildlife or Game Management should avail themselves of a curriculum which will give them the foundation courses for this work. Those students should plan on taking a course that will give them several courses in zoology such as invertebrate and vertebrate zoology, entomology, physiology, embryology and histology. They should also take courses in botany such as a year of general botany and a course in plant taxonomy which teaches them how to identify plants. All animals and plants are associated in habitats and there is a relationship that must be understood. The deer for example, subsist on various plants. The student should also work in courses in forestry such as general forestry and silviculture. He will need to take certain courses in chemistry, physics,

conomics, agronomy, English and preferbly a foreign language.

This means then that during the four ears of undergraduate work a student planing to follow a course leading toward Wildfe Management should enter a curriculum ke zoology or foresty. If he enters forstry he must work off zoology and other equirements necessary for the wildlife work ıter on.

After obtaining a B.S. degree in forestry r zoology, the man is eligible (providing is undergraduate work was satisfactory, ıat is, providing his records are good) to pply for a fellowship at Penn State or lsewhere, which will aid in financing him ɔr the next two years. During this period e will work in the field on an assigned roblem for one full year and the other me will be spent satisfying the college equirements of course work and the preration of a thesis over his field work.

A student entering The Pennsylvania State ollege would not be able to get any courses ı game or wildlife management until his unior year. Beginning in that year he ɔuld get a course in game and birds and ammals; fish culture; economic production f game birds; and wild animal conservation. ı the Senior year he could take courses in rnithology; general limnology; and the ıeory of game management.

It is felt by many that a general four year ɔurse should be followed with advanced ork in the field of wildlife management. tudents qualifying for advanced work ould have available courses in insect ecogy (broad enough to give them good ɔundational work in animal ecology); forest ology; covert management; taxonomy of ertebrates; techniques in wildlife mangement and other related courses.

Following a program such as outlined bove either at The Pennsylvania State Colge or elsewhere will give the student a ɔundation that should fit him to be eligible ɔr work in the field of wildlife management. fe should after successful completion of uch courses be able to pass the U. S. Civil ervice examinations and get on their eligɔle list.

It should be understood that wildlife mangement as we think of it today is not a eries of easy courses and an easy way ırough four years of college, it is a serious rofession and those planning to enter the eld should be prepared to work hard. They ill get out of it in proportion to what they ut in it.—R. F. English, Professor of Wildfe Management.

## THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW

Wood ducks are not the only ducks to est in trees. Goldeneyes and Hooded Meransers also have this characteristic.

Bats are not attracted to lights because of ıe illumination. They catch the insects hich are thus attracted.

Government chemists are obtaining 90 allons of liquid fuel from one ton of such ırm wastes as corncobs and cottonseed ulls; the fuel is 50% ethyl alcohol, the rest eing butanol, acetone and other flammables.

## THE BUFFALO

*(Named by Col. Henry W. Shoemaker, State Archivist)*

Covering, as it does, so many diverse faunal areas, one might naturally expect the Buffalo to split up into several corresponding races; and it is generally recognized that, in a measure, it did so.

The far North produced the huge Wood Buffalo; the Rockies, the small dark Mountain Buffalo; the Plains, the paler, medium-sized Plains Buffalo; and the forests of Eastern States, the Black Pennsylvania Buffalo, now extinct.

This Buffalo appears to have been much like the Wood Buffalo, but larger and darker —almost black. Although the first race seen by English-speaking folk, it was the last to be described. Col. Henry W. Shoemaker, present State Archivist gave it the name "pennsylvanicus" in 1915, in his valuable "Pennsylvania Bison Hunt" (pp. 16-17).

It is hard to realize now that the woods of Pennsylvania contained thousands of Buffaloes as late as 1750. Their pathways through the woods were the most convenient ways of travel for mankind.

As late as 1773, when Philip Quigley settled on the West Branch, Clinton Co., Pa, the great Northern herd of Buffalo "still numbered about 12,000 animals."

These facts are fully set forth in the above pamphlet by Col. Shoemaker; also in "Extinct Pennsylvania Animals," Part II, 1919, by the same author.

He writes me under date of Oct. 27, 1925, as follows:

"As to the Buffaloes in Pennsylvania, the last one in Somerset County was killed by Joseph Shank in the Glades of that county in 1810, according to George W. Grove, a noted local historian of Somerset County; and another one was killed in Northumberland County by Frederick Stamm in 1810. The hide of the Northumberland County Buffalo figured in a sale at Boalsburg, Centre County, in 1917, according to Mr. John W. Hess, of Boalsburg, who stated that the hide had been in the possession of the Stamm family since the animal wa. killed. This hide was purchased by a representative of Col. Theodore Davis, not knowing its historical significance, for $19, and is now in his home in Boalsburg.

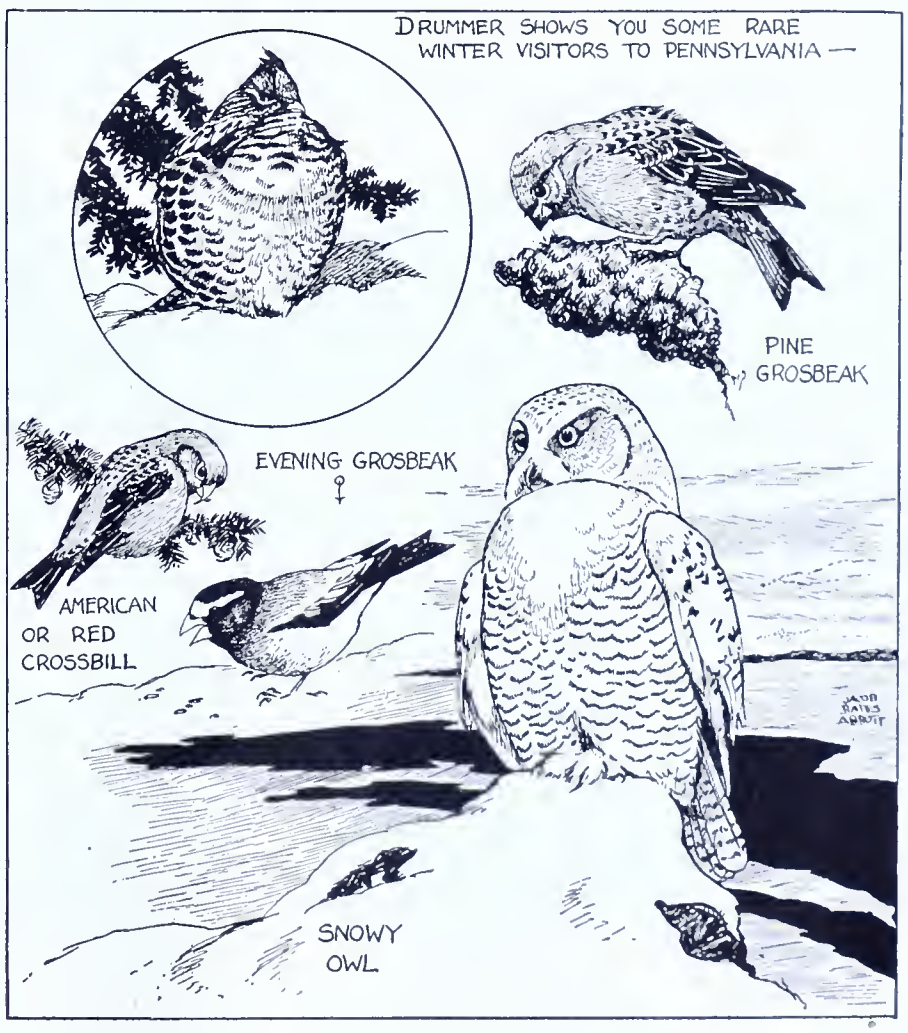
"The last Buffalo was driven out of Buffalo Valley, Union County, in the direction of Lewistown by Jacob Weikert in 1808. Col. John Kelly killed a Buffalo at the Buffalo Cross Roads in Buffalo Valley in 1801; and the last herd of Buffaloes was wiped out in the White Mountains of Union County in 1799."

The Pennsylvania Buffalo is practically unrepresented in any museum. The young naturalist can do good service by watching excavations that are in progress anywhere in Pennsylvania, and especially in bogs, for in these are likely to be found skulls, bones, and even complete skeletons of this most interesting species.

Some forest fires travel faster than a deer can run.

One female moth and her family can destroy, in a single year, as much wool as it would take one dozen sheep to produce.

The flower which has the nick-name "dog-toothed violet" is not a violet. It is a lily.



# WHO OWNS THE LAND BENEATH OUR WATERS?

Who owns the land beneath tidewaters and our navigable streams? Does the State or its grantees own them or does the Federal government?

Until 1937 there never was any dispute about it. Since July 4, 1776, when the Colonies declared their independence of Great Britain, they and the states that succeeded them had clear and unclouded title to these lands. They could and did deed them to individuals and corporations. They could and did lease them. The Supreme Court of the United States in many decisions has sustained the title of the State and their grantees. Three leading cases are Martin v. Waddell (1842), 41 U. S. 366; Knight v. U. S. Land Association (1891), 142 U. S. 161; and Illinois Central R. R. Co. v. Illinois (1892), 146 U. S. 387. In the latter case, which followed the previous decision, it held "it is the settled law of this country that the ownership of and dominion and sovereignty over lands covered by tidewaters, within the limits of the several States, belong to the respective States within which they are found."

The boundaries of those states bordering on the coast extends three miles outward from the coast line.

Lands under navigable streams and under lakes belong to the states in which they lie unless they have by valid deed been transferred to other owners.

This principle of law was so well grounded and so universally upheld by the courts that no one thought that there could be any dispute and no one questioned it until 1937. Up to that year all departments of the Federal government recognized and respected this title.

In 1937 and again in 1938 former Senator Nye, of North Dakota, introduced resolutions in the Senate in which the assertion was made that these lands were "the property of the United States." The resolution did not pass, but hearings were held and federal officials argued naively that these lands in truth belonged to Uncle Sam, and from that time to this day Interior Department officials, including Secretary Ickes, have taken the position that the United States could and should exercise jurisdiction over them. Recently Secretary Ickes has announced that he intends to issue leases for oil and gas on tide and submerged lands. These particular leases were located in California.

Late in May of this year Francis Biddle, then Attorney General, started a suit to enjoin an oil company—a lessee of the State of California from taking oil from below the waters. In a newspaper release Mr. Biddle was quoted as saying that the suit was brought to determine "not only the legal rights of the United States and the State of California," but the rights of the United States and other coastal states where oil deposits exist.

Between March 12 and June 28 of this year 20 Joint Resolutions were introduced in the House and one in the Senate to quiet the titles of the States and others to lands beneath tidewaters and navigable waters with the added purpose to prevent further clouding of such titles.

These resolutions were considered together by the House and Senate Judiciary Committees. One of them, H. J. Res. 225, introduced by Hatton Sumner (Tex.) was reported in the House with a recommendation that it do pass. This was July 17.

"What," you may ask, "has all this to do with wildlife?" It is a pertinent question and the answer is to be found in the Report (No. 927) of the Judiciary Committee. In it appears this language: "it is the belief of the Committee that there is no justification for the assertion by the Federal government of a claim to the submerged lands of states which produce oil therefrom, more than the submerged lands of ar the other states. Nor is there any basis for claiming oil than for claiming iron, or oysters or shrimp." And if oy and shrimp, why not trout, salmon an other fishes.

The specious reasoning of the Interior partment in asserting ownership of thes low water lands is characteristic of the to grab more and more jurisdiction fror states in their administration of the na resources within their borders. There studied effort, subtle at times, brazenly at others. So much concerned and ala were the representatives of the States this lust for more federal control ove States that they decided action was r sary. It was long overdue. The report on to say "this legislation is necessa remove the cloud which has been cast the titles of enormously valuable throughout the United States and to pr the similar clouding of these titles i future."

The question raised here is extr pertinent. We do know that the Fe government on occasions in the pas challenged the right of the states to ac ister its wildlife in connection with its of landlord. This point probably will r settled by the legislation now pendin has been sleeping through cooperative a ments and understandings but may cor again when vigilance is relaxed and the lifted. It is a matter which merits study and careful analysis, if the Stat not to be threatened with constantl curring effort to break down or o their authority.

Photo courtesy Markley A. Romberger.
This unique marker indicates the final resting place of Andy Wilson of Watham, Clinton County, who was well known to many big game hunters of that section. It was contributed by Guy L. Heckert, of Halifax, Pa., who hunted with Andy since 1910.

## BOOK REVIEWS

BEHOLD OUR GREEN MANSION
Richard H. D. Boerker, University of Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, N. C.

What has happened to America's wealth? How much of our virgin is left? Why are forest fires so preve Is forest destruction a cause of floods? private owners grow timber as a pro crop? To what extent should gover control be applied? Where would y for a forest vacation?

This book supplies authoritative an The old passive idea of "conservation" placed by a dynamic principle of restoration for multiple use, with h welfare as the ultimate object. The a stresses the importance of wise fo practices to prevent floods, "dust b soil erosion and the choking of rese with silt.

Richly illustrated with photograph maps, this book is designed to prese story of America's forests to Am readers.

The Delaware County Field and S Association mentioned several DO's DON'Ts in their Club News to remind members to be sportsmen and not hunters.

"How the heck did he get in here?"

## WHAT MAKES A GUN KICK?

Science now has answered two questions asked by shooters from the time they first experienced the kick of a rifle.

Does the visible recoil of a gun occur before the bullet leaves the muzzle and destroy aim or does the gun "kick" after the bullet is safely on its aimed way?

A deer gun, an ordinary camera used by newspaper photographers and a special photographic light that permits the making of pictures in three millionths of a second, gave the answers to J. C. Dear, chief ballistician of the research laboratory of the Western Cartridge Company division of Olin Industries, Inc., at East Alton, Illinois.

Ballistician Dear mounted a Model 94 lever action deer gun in a recoil rest which simulated as nearly as possible the conditions under which a rifle is fired from a human shoulder. He loaded the rifle with a 30-30 cartridge which has a muzzle velocity of 2200 feet per second.

The stock of the rifle rested in a special steel pocket lined with sponge rubber and the muzzle was supported by its own weight on a hard rubber cylinder and a block of wood, which was used to indicate recoil.

A thin copper wire was then stretched two and a half inches from the gun muzzle, directly across the path to be taken by the bullet. This wire was connected electrically with the photolight which was to illuminate the area of the gun muzzle for a microscopically small portion of a second at the precise instant the 30-30 bullet severed the wire.

Dear then focused his camera and made a picture which showed the muzzle at rest on the block of wood. Next he loaded the rifle with a 30-30 cartridge and fired it with a lanyard. At the precise instant the bullet had broken, but not yet passed the wire, the special light illuminated the area for three millionths of a second and Dear's camera caught the bullet in flight.

With the bullet already more than two inches away from the muzzle, no visible recoil had occurred. The muzzle was still on the rest and the bullet was safely on its way to the point at which it had been aimed.

The gun was reloaded and a third picture made when the second bullet snipped a second wire 30 feet distant from the rifle. This picture showed that visible recoil had raised the muzzle approximately three-quarters of an inch above the wood block.

However, Dear explained it requires only about 16 thousandths of a second for a gun to reach its maximum recoil. Since everything happens in such a short space of time, it is no wonder some shooters will blame visible recoil for a miss. Dear pointed out that his experiment did not pretend to take into account any other factors which can influence bullet flight.

---

## IN THE MAIL BAG

EDITOR'S NOTE—In a letter to Mr. Buell Hollister, Pyne, Kendall & Hollister, 52 Wall Street, New York 5, New York, Commander Newbold Ely, Ambler, outlines methods used to combat hookworms.

October 12, 1945.

Referring to your letter of October 9th, at first I sprinkled all of the concrete in the kennel area with a saturated solution of salt water. In other words, I took a watering can and put as much salt in it as the water would take up—until the grains of salt would no longer dissolve. In our experiments at the Veterinary Hospital at the University of Pennsylvania, where I am on the Board of Managers, we found a saturated solution was necessary for most efficient results. There we took heavily infected areas of dirt and treated them this way and had completely negative tests, *i.e.*—all hookworms destroyed by desiccation.

As you know, there are only two things which will kill hookworm—one is fire and the other salt. The shell of the hookworm egg is so tough it will even stand hydrochloric acid. Personally, I had trouble with several different kinds of blow torches as they kept blocking up, and also I was afraid someone using them would set fire to the kennels.

Recently instead of sprinkling the kennel area I have had just as good results from an idea of my own, which consists of having a large tray of salt placed just inside the main kennel entrance so that whenever my foxhounds go in or out from their runways they have to step into this salt, thereby always carrying a little moist salt on the pads of their feet. As you know, the means of hookworm infection is from the pad, then to the food, then to the mouth. In this way even though 80 foxhounds are kenneled together worm parasites are practically nonexistent.

You ask how often I found it necessary to put on the solution, I used the solution once every day, but since I have inaugurated the tray of salt the latter is in use all of the time, and merely refilled twice a week.

You may be interested to know how the use of salt for hookworm was discovered. The Rand diamond mines in Africa had had silicosis among the native workmen on account of the dust in the lower working levels. To overcome this they doused everything with water. But then got into another kind of trouble because the moist damp conditions were ideal for hookworm and the natives became infected with this parasite through their bare feet. To overcome this the management used salt, and thus eliminated the hookworm scourge.

Mort Fuller, M.F.H. of The Abington Hills Hunt, one of the officials of The International Salt Company, had one of their men come to my kennels to observe how I used the salt, and published an article in the *American Kennel Gazette*. Since this article first appeared I have received quite a few letters about its use, and those who have tried it report equally good results.

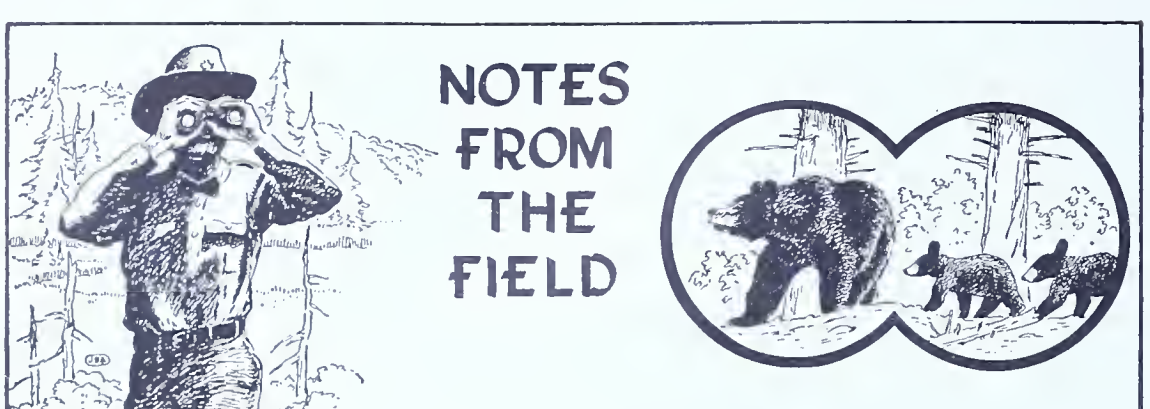
Sincerely Yours,

NEWBOLD ELY.

---

The porcupine is slow and stupid and these characteristics have been the salvation of more than one lost hunter and woodsman. Of all the forest animals the "porky" is the only one which an unarmed man, sick from hunger and exposure, can kill with a stick or a stone.

A Field employee of the Game Commission concealed by the bush in the left foreground makes a set for a predator under the direction of Harold Plasterer who has been supervising all the trapping activities of the commission. Partly due to an energetic campaign waged by the Commission during the past two years, Pennsylvania's accumulated predator problem is on its way to effective solution.




"John Flader, a professional trapper, took 61 foxes and one wildcat this month. Bobcats are staging a comeback in this district."—Game Protector John H. Lohman, Milford, October 1945.

---

"I counted 71 deer within a distance of four miles one evening while out on jacklight work."—Game Protector W. C. Ackey, Weatherly, October, 1945.

---

"The fox trappers I have instructed are doing a good job. They are working pretty hard at it, so the fox population in the district should be decreased this winter. To date I have caught eight red and four gray foxes."—Game Protector Floyd A. Beck, Venus, October, 1945.

---

"I believe the fox bounty will quadruple the take of foxes this year in Greene County as men are trapping who never trapped before. Some of them are making good money out of it. One man has taken well over 200 foxes since the first day of August. Another has taken 25 foxes out of one set in the last two years. There seems to be no end to them. They keep coming night after night no matter how many have been caught. If you pull a line of traps and look back over it in a week the holes have all been dug out. Although the catch this winter will be high I do not believe it will make very deep inroads in the population for each pair that is left will produce from 5 to 10 young again. It will take several years of intensive trapping to bring them under control."—Game Protector John F. Blair, Waynesburg, October 1945.

"In Westmoreland County during this duck season it was interesting and a bit amusing to note the number of fishermen-hunters at the various dams and reservoirs over the county. Wearing both the fish button and game license tag, many hunters fished with a shotgun nearby, in case ducks would fly within range. Some of the nimrod-anglers had both ducks and fish, too!"—Game Protector R. D. Reed, Latrobe, October 1945.

---

"One afternoon while a friend and I were conversing at his home we were startled by two birds 'zooming' past the house. One bird failed to rise in the air again and the other continued in flight. The bird that was unable to fly again was a pigeon which was bleeding quite badly. After looking around the yard we located many feathers from the pigeon. As you might suspect the other bird was a hawk which I believe to have been a Cooper's hawk. It continued to pursue other pigeons and one in particular was able to elude the marauder."—Game Protector Clifford L. Ruth, Wesleyville, October 1945.

---

"On October 19 a wild duck evidently became tired of aquatic life and decided to give the city a try. Landing in the streets of Connellsville was much harder than the surface of the water, and the bird was quite shaken up. However Mr. Craig, a Special Fish Warden, came to its rescue and took it to Indian Head dam where it again found its natural environment."—Game Protector Lester E. Sheaffer, Uniontown, October 1945.

"M. C. Jones, Fish Warden, and mysel trapped thirty foxes this month, making a total of fifty. Of this number only four were gray. In the two sections of Somerse County where these foxes were caught very little small game was observed. Three red foxes were seen recently in the Boro o Rockwood."—Game Protector Willard M Crooks, Somerset, October 1945.

---

"The catch of foxes by the trappers will be very big this year. I have one trapper with 119 and another with 80."—Game Protector W. D. Denton, New Milford, October 1945.

---

"During the last half of October the fox trappers swung into action and a great number of foxes were captured. If weather conditions favor the trappers during the coming months a great many more will be taken."—Game Protector Lester J. Haney, Brookville, October 1945.

---

"I believe this predator program is really getting results this fall. There have been over fifty foxes caught within a radius of three miles from Tidioute and I know of other places that have produced about the same number of foxes for like area. A large number of the trappers never caught a fox until this year, but after a couple of demonstrations of the bait hole dirt set they have caught several." — Game Protector George H. Burdick, Tidioute, October 1945.

---

"Grouse were rather scarce in this section last year and while they are not too numerous this year, in my opinion they are on the increase. I think the opossum played a large part in keeping the grouse population down by eating the eggs and young birds. Last year I caught an awful lot of opossums while trapping for foxes, while this year I have only caught one. The hard winter no doubt killed most of them off. In my opinion the skunk also destroys a good many nests and young grouse. I would like to see him classed as vermin along with the fox and the opossum, partly because he does destroy a lot of grouse and partly because one turned his gun on me the other day and the flak really was heavy."—Game Protector William F. Carpenter, Mt. Jewett, October 1945.

"The beavers I have been trying to trap in the Fayetteville section have been throwing my live traps quite regularly, no doubt with the limbs they take in to repair the hole in the dam where I place the traps. This being the case I tore a large amount of the three breasts out, with the hope that the beavers will soon get discouraged and leave."—Game Protector John I. Hendricks, Chambersburug, October 1945.

---

"While putting up signs around State Game Lands No. 64 I noticed four deer feeding along the line. As I stood observing them a four motor plane came over at a height of not much more than five hundred feet and in the quietness of the woods the roar of the motors sounded very loud. I observed the deer closely, as I often wondered what reaction this caused wildlife. They paid no attention whatever and went on feeding."—Game Protector Warren W. Ohlman, Galeton, October 1945.

---

"We had one golden eagle killed during the month. It was caught killing poultry."—Game Protector Ambrose Gerhart, Souderton, October 1945.

---

"We held two fox hunts on Game Lands No. 13 on October 7 and 21. We met at Elk Grove. There were 86 cars and over 300 hunters. It rained most of the day which made the hunting hard. We only killed one gray fox. It was bagged by Leon R. Welsh from Berwick. The second Sunday we hunted there were only about twenty men and we killed two gray foxes. The credit for them belongs to the Keller brothers. Joe Griffin, proprietor of the Elk Grove Inn, served lunch for the hunters."—Game Protector Chester S. Siegel, Benton, October 1945.

---

"Several persons had predicted that with the return of so many men from the armed services that there would be an upswing in the number of game law violations. It is indeed very gratifying to know that returning servicemen are very much opposed to game law violations as a whole. Also it is a fine tribute to the way our men were trained in service."—Game Protector William Lane, Hustontown, October 1945.

"I had the unusual experience of trying to catch myself as a violating pre-season pheasant hunter. This is how it happened. Each day I would park my car in a certain location for about an hour while I checked a fox trap, and usually I carried a basket and an apparatus for releasing 'coons and dogs from traps. A certain farmer in the vicinity became suspicious and took my device for releasing dogs for a gun and my basket as something in which to bring my illegal kill back to the car. This particular day when I stopped at the usual place he called a nearby Deputy Game Protector. After I drove away from the spot I met the Deputy. He told me that he would like my help in catching a pheasant hunter. I turned my car around and followed him to the farmer's house when the report was turned in. The farmer, seeing my car and the Deputy, said, "Well, I see you caught the son-of-a-gun." The Deputy then introduced me to the farmer and after I told him what I was up to we had a good all-around laugh."—Game Protector Elmer D. Simpson, Cambridge Springs, October 1945.

---

"Foxes are very plentiful in this district but fox trappers are very scarce."—Game Protector Robert L. Sinsabaugh, English Center, October 1945.

---

"The number of hunters reporting the killing of foxes while hunting for other game is greatly on the increase. Three have been killed by one hunter from Mercer and several others have shot one each during woodcook and duck season. Many hunters now go afield with the hope of bagging one of the red or grey killers knowing they are becoming a menace to our wildlife."—Game Protector H. C. Sutherland, Greenville, October 1945.

---

"I have been having good success on the predator control programs, but have lifted most of the traps due to hunters being in the woods with their dogs. While I caught 34 foxes, I also caught many opossums, hawks, etc. I opened a number of fox stomachs and found a good percentage contained rabbit. In many locations where I released rabbits that I trapped last winter not a bunny is to be found, but the fox sign is there."—Game Protector Frank E. Couse, DuBois, October 1945.

"Wayne Johnson, of Amberson Valley, killed the bald eagle that was after a turkey at the Turkey Farm. The eagle had killed 7 turkeys and 2 chickens for one valley farmer, and 2 chickens for another."—Game Protector D. H. Franklin, Upper Strasburg, October 1945.

---

"Fifty-four adult trappers attended the fox trapping course conducted at my headquarters on October 19. Many of them are showing splendid results. Many people report seeing foxes along the road during the daytime and at night."—Game Protector Paul L. Failor, Mt. Pocono, October 1945.

---

"Perhaps placing a bounty on the red fox helps reduce the fox population, but I think it works just like the extensive predator control campaign being pushed by our Commission. The bounty plus the publicity given the predator control campaign has produced more trappers than I thought possible. Every person who ever set a trap and a lot who never did became would-be fox trappers. Consequently our section is full of crippled 'coons, skunks and rabbits. Of course several foxes were taken, but what are left are well educated. I find it almost impossible to get one near a set where any type of lure is used but natural fox urine. Personally, I don't think the results were worth the cost."—Game Protector Vern A. VanOrder, Renovo, October 1945.

---

"During October most of the officers really went to work on predators, foxes especially. Some of the boys have nearly 50 foxes."—Field Division Supervisor Hayes T. Englert, Oil City, October 1945.

---

"One of my neighbors has rigged up electric lights to keep the deer out of his orchard close to the house. Recently he found 7 deer lying down under the light."—Game Protector Ralph Ewing, Polk, September, 1945.

---

The Trescow Outdoor Sportsmen's Club of Carbon County, recently chartered on October 28 this year, is off to a good start, with 85 members. The club has been purchasing, feeding and protecting game for sometime.

# WITH THE CLUBS

About 900 sportsmen were addressed by leading sportsmen at 25th anniversary celebration of Bowmanstown Rod and Gun Club at the club house, Palmerton, R. 1. Left to right, front row are: J. Allen Barrett, Harrisburg, lecturer of Pennsylvania Fish Commission; Rayle Hill, Bowmanstown, State fish warden and member of the club; Robert Steventon, superintendent of Nesquehoning High School and outstanding sportsman of Carbon County; William Achey, Weatherly, game protector; back row, Attorney Sidney Webb, Palmerton, master of ceremonies; Seth Gordon, Harrisburg, executive director of the Pennsylvania Game Commission; Benjamin K. Williams, East Stroudsburg, newly appointed member of the State Game Commission; Anthony Lech, Schuylkill Haven, State fish warden.

Photos Allentown Morning Call.

Interior of clubhouse.

The North Eastern Lancaster County Rod and Gun Club recently held a meeting at which movies were a feature of a program stressing safety. Sitting and standing room was completely filled fifteen minutes before the program was scheduled to start.

The winners of the hunt-safely contest were announced as follows:

First prize, Anna Fryberger, second, Harry M. Martin; third, Kathryn Keiffer; fourth, Harold Hoshower; fifth, H. L. Brown; sixth, Howard Spotts; seventh, W. H. Harnish; eighth, J. S. Newswenger; ninth, Harled Spotts; tenth, Eugene Spotts.

---

Lost:—Earl Carpenter, 41 Taylor Avenue, Doylestown, reports the loss of his Sam Brown belt and .38 Spcl. Official Police Colt Revolver, Serial No. 568395. Any information leading to the return of these articles will be greatly appreciated.

---

The Altoona Wildlife Conservation club and the Altoona Rifle and Pistol Club are planning to hold a series of hunts this fall to rid the area of its over supply of foxes. They expect to use several well-known packs of foxhounds and a large body of hunters, and all revenue derived from the hides and bounty paid by the State will be used in a restocking program by the Wildlife Conservation Club next spring and fall.

---

During the winter of 1944-45 the Mohnton Fish and Game Association of Berks County paid a $2.00 bounty for foxes and $ .50 for weasels killed in Brecknock and Carnervon Townships. Thirty foxes and 1 weasel were reported to their predator committee.

---

Age doesn't stop Ira B. Wolfinger, Berwick sportsman. In excellent health at 91, Mr. Wolfinger bought his hunting license and expects to bring home a good bag of game.

---

The Western Reserve Fish and Game Protective Association of Sharon is right behind the Game Commission's conservation education program for elementary school pupils. The Association, with the permission of the Sharon School Board, recently purchased 200 sets of "My Land and Your Land," a set to be given to each elementary school classroom in the Shenango Valley, from West Middlesex north to Transfer and as far east as Charleston.

## Celebrates "Silver" Anniversary

Twenty-five years of active service in the cause of conservation marked the anniversary meeting of the Bowmanstown Rod and Gun Club, Bowmanstown, and prominent sportsmen guests and members numbering nearly 900 heard inspirational addresses by well known State conservation officials and others.

The club held its first meeting on October 9, 1919, in Christman's barn on Third Street with nine members present. First officers included President Wm. Fields, deceased; Vice-President F. J. Bartholomew; Secretary George Christman, deceased; Treasurer, Victor Brown; Field Captain, Wm. Hill; and Directors Walter Koch, Bartholomew, Christman, Hill and Fields.

By-laws were adopted August 27, 1920 and a charter was granted on December 28 the same year. The club joined the Carbon County Sportsmen's Association in 1924, and leased land near the present club site for a trap layout. It was not very active between 1929 and 1936, but from then on it held numerous shooting matches, picnics, dances, etc., and was very active in stocking and feeding game.

In 1941 it had raised enough money to buy the clubhouse site and to dig a well. The next year it dug out the cellar and built the wall. In 1943 the members started to build the club house, contributing their labor. The membership by that time had jumped to 250. Today the club house is completed and the building debt is free.

Present officers include President Wm. A. Yale; Vice-President Emory Smith; Recording Secretary, Howard 'Bud' Seitz; Financial Secretary, Leon R. Lentz; Treasurer, Preston V. Snyder; Field Captain, Wm. Hangebuck; and directors Wm. Hill, Franklin Strowl, Mark Andreas, John Flexer and Albert Swartz. Meeting nights are held the second Thursday each month.

---

The Carlisle Fish and Game Association has applied for a charter of incorporation as a non-profit organization. The purpose of this club, according to the petition, is to promote better hunting and fishing, to conserve, protect, propagate, increase and aid in distribution of game and fish in nearby sportsmen's haunts.

---

Thomas DeVivo, Stroudsburg, was elected president of the Pocono Mountain Sportsmen's Association at a recent meeting. This organization will join with other clubs in the Monroe County Federation in sponsoring a testimonial dinner for Benjamin K. Williams, East Stroudsburg, who was recently appointed a member of the Game Commission of this State.

---

"The Greencastle Game and Fish Protective Association acquired a sixty acre farm for their future activities and as a game refuge. Plans for building the area up as a refuge and for constructing a rifle range, etc. are in the preliminary stage, but with the action this club gets from its members I believe the possibilities are very great for them to have one of the best homes in this part of the State.

The Clinton County Fish and Game Association is conducting a hunt safely campaign that is really "something to write home about."

It distributed safety placards to every sporting goods store and every other store in the Clinton County area that sells hunting supplies. It also carried a large number of newspaper "ads", some of them full page, in local papers urging safe hunting.

The association has purchased a subscription to the GAME NEWS and the ANGLER for every school library—Secondary or Collegiate, Protestant or Catholic—in the Clinton County area, and subscribed to these magazines for each Boy Scout in its district. The Boy Scout Council of the City of Lock Haven agreed to participate in the rabbit trapping program under the direction of Game Protector Miles Reeder immediately after the hunting season.

Every high school system in the area had a "Hunt Safely" chapel program at which time safety placards were distributed and Game Protector Reeder gave an interesting talk.

In connection with this enterprise the club sponsored an essay contest in the schools throughout the county. Two prizes of $10 are being offered to the boy and girl who submit the best essay on safe hunting.

During the past two years this energetic sportsmen's club has increased in membership from 500 to 1,950. Every Clinton County boy and girl who hunts or fishes was given an opportunity to join the club, and they took advantage of it. There are very few clubs that are pursuing so enthusiastically or energetically an overall conservation program as the Clinton County group and it is to be highly commended for its efforts.

---

The Lehigh County Fish and Game Protective Association conducted an amateur field trial on October 28 which drew an entry of 25 dogs and more than 500 spectators.

Photo courtesy Dave DeLong, Evening Chronicle, Allentown.

**Larry Nuesslein, Allentown marksman and former member of the U. S. Olympic rifle team, is shown in the center of the photograph above, showing the weapon with which he thrilled the Lehigh County Fish and Game Association audience at its 24th annual Hunter's Night on October 24. At the left is William T. Minnich, a member of the board. At the right is Jack Houser, also a board member.**

Mrs. F. Letourneau of Sutton rubbed her eyes and looked again one October morning when she glanced out toward her front yard. There gamboling merrily on the lawn were two deer—a doe and a buck. The animals fled when they saw Mrs. Letourneau but they left their footprints in her lawn.

The Armstrong County Sportsmen's League recently started publishing a little bulletin "The Bull" in the hope of stirring up sufficient enthusiasm among the sportsmen so the club can do something more than just talk about hunting.

"The Bull" tells briefly about the activities of the various local sportsmen's organizations within the county. This should stimulate interest among the local clubs and bind them closer as a county organization. Good luck, boys!

---

During "Hunt Safely Week" the St. Marys Sportsmen's Association sponsored a poster campaign throughout the town and also supplied all the schools with safety posters. A movie on the safe handling of firearms, "The Making of a Shooter," was shown to climax the week's program and Game Protector Ted Carlson of the Johnsonburg district gave an interesting talk on safe hunting, citing some local accidents that were caused by carelessness.

---

Twenty-one new members were recently admitted to the Montour County Fish and Game Conservation Club.

---

The Montgomery County Fish, Game and Forestry Association ran a big advertisement in the local papers urging hunters to respect the rights of landowners, to play safe with firearms and look before they shoot, and to not waste shells, meat or skins. This was a fine gesture on the part of the Montgomery County boys. We hope other clubs will follow suit and call these important issues to the attention of sportsmen throughout the entire hunting season.

**Members of the Mifflin County Sportsmen's Association of Lewistown about to release some of the ringnecks they raised last summer. Left to right: Darl Delong, John Goss, Ralph Kerstetter, Richard Goss, Secretary-Treasurer, Chas. Curr, Sr., Chairman, Fish Committee, Game Protector Ralph McCoy, Robert Shotzer, Chairman, Game Committee, and Lloyd Gill, Recording Secretary. This organization has only been in existence since May 1, 1945, and already has a membership of 600.**

# CORN FED SQUIRRELS

*(Continued from page 3)*

The dead chestnut tree in the lane.

going end over end, into the timber that bordered the field on the left. The report of the rifle startled the gray who leaped into a young birch tree beside the fence. Jim got him with a quick shot and it lodged in a forked limb just above the top rail.

I saw no sign of the black after squeezing the trigger, but was curious to see where my bullet had hit that ear of corn. We found it about twenty feet beyond the fence. There was a splash of red in the mid section and we found the squirrel beside a rock nearby. The only remark made during the ruckus was when Jim laid the game side by side with the comment—"Oh-Boy, Corn Fed!"

Another squirrel started to bark over in the timber and we slipped over in that direction. He quieted down in a minute so we perched on a rock, keeping a close watch over the woods ahead. A slight scratching sound reached us as down the bole of a big cottonwood about thirty feet from Jim came a big gray squirrel. A dozen feet from the ground he stopped, head down, his fine tail draped upward over the trunk of the tree. It made a picture no artist could paint. Jim had to take the shot left-handed. He eased his rifle around an inch at a time. The squirrel never moved a muscle and Jim shot it directly under the ear.

Two more started to bark some distance ahead. They seemed to be located on opposite sides of an old apple orchard that stood beyond a small forest of black birch. Jim went around to his right and I went straight on, when the squirrel ahead started barking again. A little stalking and considerable noise stirred up when I slipped on a frosty stone, ended with an easy shot that dropped him out of a scrubby pin oak. I had just pumped in a fresh shell when a rabbit came hopping up from a little ravine just ahead. He was in no hurry, had apparently not seen me, and I scored a near miss on him. The little bullet just creased him, but knocked him out long enough for me to get to him before he could get up and get going.

In the next half hour I heard Jim shoot several times, saw a 'possum waddle out from under a wild grapevine and disappear into a stone pile. A few minutes later I almost stepped on a gray squirrel that, from nowhere, ran right up to me. This fellow didn't waste any time on the take-off when he saw who I was. He poured on the coal, dove under a laurel bush and raced up a sapling almost in the same breath. From the sapling he made a great leap, landed running on the side of a chestnut stub and disappeared for a moment. Presently he appeared again, this time a few feet higher, and stuck his head and forefeet out of a hole where once a limb had grown. I took the shot expecting to see him fall forward. Instead, he fell inside the stub, starting a miniature avalanche of decayed wood in the midst of which he was delivered almost at my feet, like a candy bar from a slot machine, through a great hole at the roots of the stub.

Although the day was yet young, things began to quiet down. There was still to be heard the everlasting chucking of the chipmunks, the occasional drumming of a grouse, or the staccato kuk, kuk, kuk of a pileated woodpecker. I hunted around toward the brow of the point hill and seeing no game, went over where the wooded jungle slopes off at a sixty degree angle toward the village, four hundred feet below. I arrived just in time to see a magnificent fox squirrel run up a tall poplar and out on a limb overhanging the slope. He was suspicious, but his attention seemed to be directed along the slope to the left. Jim could be over there, so I kept quiet, watching the squirrel until he settled down. In a little while he crouched flat on the limb, his long tail swinging in the fitful breeze. I wanted this fellow to mount for Jim and took care to aim low and back of the head. His last leap was directed toward a nearby tree, but he folded up midway and landed in a bush a few yards down the hill.

The frost of early morning, now reduced to water, had softened the carpet of leaves. Stalking was easy I learned with a start, when Jim's ear-splitting whistle sounded from behind me. "O-ho!" said he, "Caught you sound asleep didn't I? Where's your sixth sense? Don't you know you're supposed to heed your hunches?" "Nix on you and your hunches," says I. "I know I came in here with an Indian, but the half-wild ones don't bother me any. This squirrel had you spotted for the last twenty minutes and I heard you lay down quite a barrage a while back." "Yes," said Jim, "and darn it, my bag is full, much too soon, on the only day I can get away this month!"

His map wore such a woeful expression, while he emptied his pockets of four gray and two black squirrels, that I suggested, with a grin, that he go dig the 'possum out of the stone pile. With a half-snarl in his voice he retorted—"Nix on you and your opossums. Go ahead and laugh your head off and if you've got game enough to fill your gluttonous maw, let's go home!"

We went back through the lane to check

*(Continued on next page)*

out at the house and found Link soaking his foot in a pan of water. On a chair beside him rested a strip of linen, a spool of adhesive tape and a bottle of arnica. In answer to Jim's "How come?" Link replied, "I guess I'm too old to let loose around cattle. All my life I've worked with cows, but it took old Brin to teach me to keep my dogs out from under. She weighed nine twenty last March and has put on another hundred weight of beef since then. Of course it had to be the biggest cow on the farm to force common sense through my crust!" Old Brin had certainly done a good job on Link's great toe. It was swelled to about the size of a turkey egg and colored like a ripe plum—Royal purple.

Link and his teen-age son, Bob, were alone on the farm for the winter, so we left four of the squirrels and helped bandage the sore foot. I told Bob about the opossum and showed him how to set a trap for him and for weasels. Jim and I took the long way home, over an old logging road through small woodlots and underbrush.

Where the old road ended on the slope, portions of an aged pole fence still marked what was once a clearing on a farm long since abandoned. On the topmost pole was perched the biggest Great Horned Owl we ever saw. When we first spotted him he sat erect and motionless, his back toward Jim who was in the lead. Suddenly his head turned half-way around, the great, yellow eyes staring barefully at us. The next moment his head snapped back, eyes front, the stubby wings unfolded and an instant later Jim's bullet hit him, dead center at the base of the neck. I believe this owl was the same rascal who had, for many years, serenaded the village at the twilight hour. He could be seen and heard, from almost any place in the borough, as he perched on a dead limb high above the trees on the point hill. With my fox squirrel held in his talons, his yellow eyes, now of glass, stare balefully from a shelf in Jim's den.

# A FARMER LOOKS AT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

*(Continued from page 5)*

management program seems to hang. Wildlife management should not be a goal by itself, but should be part of an integrated program in which the farmer has caught the spirit of conservation. The spirit or philosophy of conservation is the desire to improve and increase the resources which the goodness of the Lord has given to us. It is the desire to hand on to the next man a better farm than we received, not a poorer one. It means that the farmer recognizes the soil, water, woodland, and wildlife as resources to be tended with care and thankfulness.

But the problem in the past has been to arouse this conservation spirit among the farmers. Certain soil men have achieved it among small groups; the forestry leaders have accomplished a comparable spirit among groups of forestry enthusiasts, and game commissions and sportsmen's clubs have striven unceasingly to work out their plans for a wide application of good wildlife management. The difficulty has been to arouse the desire to conserve all resources, not just certain specific resources. As regards wildlife management, it was not difficult to interest farmers in doing a little winter feeding, or in helping restock the game supply, or perhaps planting a little bird feed, but how about reforestation of rough land, contour stripping for lanes of travel, and woodland management for best wildlife conditions. These last named features of a good wildlife management program were ignored by the large majority of farmers for years. There was too much work simply for wildlife conservation.

Beginning in the late 1930's a new movement spread rapidly over this country, the soil conservation district movement. All over the United States farmers began to band together to form soil conservation districts, local organizations of farmers, established according to law, but operated democratically by the farmers themselves to carry on a broad and effective soil and moisture program for the general welfare of the people in the districts. With these district movements, has gradually developed the conservation philosophy, the desire to conserve our resources, whatever they may be, the desire to make a poor farm good—a good farm better, the desire to improve a piece of woodland, the wish for a better and broader wildlife program. The conservation philosophy, or the spirit of conservation, is by no means an accomplished fact. It is just starting; it is a great and growing thing in this nation of ours. It is bringing stream pollution bills into our legislatures; it is bringing new regulations concerning forest care and forest fires; it is bringing better laws and plans for soil conservation; it is bringing new ideas for wildlife care and protection. It is, in short, the awakening of a careless nation to new responsibilities.

In our wildlife management program the soil conservation district plays another important part, besides awakening a broad conservation interest of which wildlife conservation is a part. The district is authorized by law to seek aid from, and to co-operate with other agencies, such as the Forestry Service, River and Stream Commissions, Game Commissions; Soil Conservation Service, and many other organizations. The district can coordinate the work of all these agencies so that on my farm, through the help of the district, the Soil Conservation Service and the Extension Service are teaching me how to contour strip and terrace my fields, the Department of Forests and Waters is teaching me good woodland management, and the State Game Commission is helping my neighbors and me to solve our wildlife management problems through a well-coordinated State Farm Game Land Project, which embraces several thousand acres of farmland. The State Farm Game Land Project is most successful, first, because the farmers are conservation-minded to start with; second, because the project furnishes the needs of the wildlife by providing refuges, feeding programs, and supervision; third, because it provides protection to the farmer from improper and illegal hunting through safety zones and game warden supervision; and fourth, because it provides for hunters, country or city, a well-stocked hunting area of ample size, open to all. It is a complete program. As a conservation-minded farmer, I am most optimistic about the future of our farm wildlife program in this country. We have a big job to do, but we are starting in the right direction when we are aiming toward a program that conserves all our resources.

**A Game Protector checks the licenses of two hunters on a Farm-Game Cooperative project.**

# IT DOESN'T PAY

*(Continued from page 11)*

him. He indicated a willingness to do so if full settlement could be effected for $1,000. This offer was again rejected because of the magnitude and seriousness of the offenses. Mr. Tompkins agreed to "produce" his client on Tuesday, January 16, at Justice Wandall's office at Coudersport, for hearings.

The officers did not relax their vigilance in attempting to gain the objective of their search. Late on Sunday night, January 14, they responded to a "tip" that Shutt was "hiding out" in an abandoned dwelling near Austin. Immediate checking proved the tip worthless.

*How and Where Killers Operated*

These cases were widely publicized in local newspapers. As a result, much useful information was made available to the investigators.

The officers learned that between November 19 and November 26, Shutt and his accomplice, Rees, had, through the use of spotlights attached to three different motor vehicles, killed a total of 14 buck deer at night time. In addition, Rees had killed the four antlerless deer with which he was apprehended on January 1st. Introducing assembly line efficiency, coupled with mass production, disclosed the biggest case of wholesale slaughter of buck deer by two men, in so short a period of time, ever to come to the attention of the authorities.

Rees and Shutt met on the road near Austin during the second week of November 1944, and at that time hatched their plans to spotlight a large number of buck deer. They planned to sell them to unsuccessful hunters during the regular deer season that opened December 1.

Officers were told that Rees, who worked on his father's farm, would go down to the Wheeler farm and meet Shutt between nine and twelve o'clock at night. From this location, and using one of three automobiles, either the 1938 Packard sedan owned by Rees, or the 1941 Packard sedan and a 1940 Plymouth coach, both owned by Shutt, they proceeded to cruise only the improved highways in Summit, Sylvania, Wharton, Portage and Homer Townships in Potter County, and also Grove Township in Cameron County. They finished operations usually between two and five o'clock in the morning.

The area through which their unlawful operations were conducted is in the heart of some of the finest big game hunting in Pennsylvania. It is a mountainous, rugged country, dotted with farms, most of them quite far apart. Many hunting camps, occupied usually only during the hunting season, are located in these townships. The territory was ideally conducive for their operations. Sportsmen have spent thousands and thousands of dollars for land, buildings and taxes in this section, that they and their friends might enjoy brief respites from their labors and perpetrate their sport.

Much of the land consists of State Forest holdings and abandoned farms. A heavy deer population exists and hundreds of deer can be seen within close distances of the highway, foraging in the apple orchards and fields. Truly, it is a paradise for the hunter and outdoorsman.

Rees, in company with officers, revisited these sections but was unable to specifically point out where each of the deer had been killed.

Their operations in Summit and Sylvania Townships, Potter County, covered Route 52002, between Costello and the Harrington farm, a distance of approximately eight to ten miles. All deer killed in this area were taken north of the junction of South Woods and Route 52002. He stated that either five or six bucks were killed in those two townships.

In Wharton Township the deer were killed along highway Route 872, between Costello and Wharton, a distance of approximately five miles. One deer was killed on this route.

In Portage Township, between Costello and the Keating Township line, along highway Routes 872 and 607, an approximate distance of eleven miles, Rees recalled that four or five buck deer were shot in that area, but none were recovered. When questioned if any effort was made to recover the deer the following day, Rees replied "only one." In this instance they felt reasonably certain the deer could be recovered but were not successful. All were allowed to die and rot. The risk of being observed the following day was too hazardous.

In Homer Township, along highway Route 872, on the Steve Kelly farm near Inez, Rees admitted that one buck deer had been killed at this location.

Their activities were not confined alone to Potter County, when Rees admitted that a buck deer had been killed along Route 872 near the "Lushbaugh," in Grove Township, Cameron County.

Hunting alone, Rees admitted killing a buck deer on the mouth of Moores Run in Sylvania Township, and another buck at the mouth of Gravel Lick Run. These two deer were turned over to Shutt and added to their "warehouse stock," then being accumulated.

This compilation does not include the three does and button buck killed on State Forest Land, by Rees, on Moore's Run in Sylvania Township. Those were the deer in his possession at the time of apprehension on January 1.

A study of their "modus operandi" disclosed nothing new to Pennsylvania Game Protectors. A spotlight was permanently attached to the 1941 Packard sedan used by Shutt and Rees, while the Plymouth coach owned by Shutt, and the Packard sedan owned by Rees were equipped with reasonable spotlights which were attached to the automobiles.

When Rees' car was used for their exploits, he drove the car, and when Shutt's automobiles were used, Shutt drove them. Rees stated that on these expeditions Shutt operated the spotlight and also killed the deer.

All of the animals were allegedly killed with a .22 caliber Hornet rifle.

Immediately after the deer was killed Shutt would turn the automobile over to Rees who would drive down the road for distances of from one to three miles to ascertain if any person was in that area, and thus avoid detection. During his absence, Shutt would dress the animal. Rees, upon his return to the scene of the killing, would pick up Shutt. They would then proceed to other localities hopeful of killing additional bucks. Rees admitted that on some nights the hunting was better than on others. As many as three bucks were killed in one night. In all instances where Shutt's Packard car was used in the killings, they returned to the Wheeler farm and obtained Shutt's Plymouth coach. When questioned by officers as to the reason for this procedure, Rees explained that Shutt told him "there is no use getting blood all over two cars."

The deer that were killed were not always taken to the Wheeler farm on the same night of the killing, according to Rees. On one

*(Continued on next page)*

Here is where illegal venison trafficers concealed their deer, automobiles, guns and other paraphernalia.

# THAT SECOND MILE

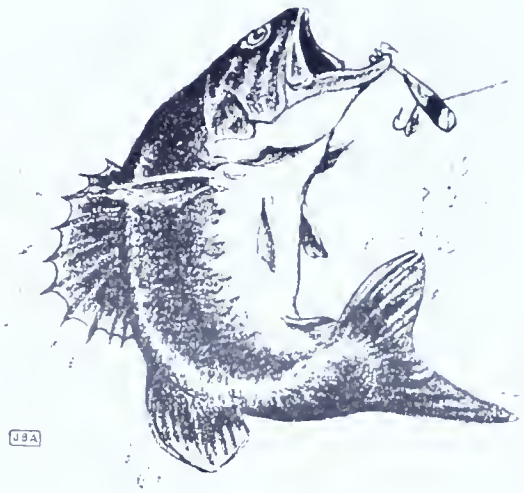
(Continued from page 7)

cover in thick laurel a half-mile away. They caused me no end of trouble, but in spite of the apparent failure, and the laborious task of hunting rough territory, I learned to deeply love the sport before I ever bagged a bird. I could not give up, and one day persistent efforts bore fruit; and that day will stand out in my hunting memories above all others. Since then, I have experienced about every type of grouse trickery, and have learned to hunt him with a fair degree of success, but as long as I live the glorious thrill of that first accomplishment will never dim.

It was a Saturday afternoon and I had Doe Puckett's veteran old bird dog from Lynchburg. Nancy had hunted quail eight seasons of her nine years, and this day I had the rare pleasure to introduce her to this noted thunderbird. She quickly learned to love the woods and after her first grouse point, the fields never appealed to her as much again. It was difficult to get her to hunt quail after she was taken back to Virginia.

The day was still and autumn woods were quietly ablaze with brightest colors, and lazy leaves drifted gently to the ground. This woody wonderland was a haven and at the moment game seemed unimportant, and right then I thoroughly relaxed.

Nancy cast right and left, into the spruce



thickets, under the wild grapevines, through old apple orchards, and up the alder runs. Across the swift little stream we went and followed a fire trail through a heavily wooded timberland that borders the lake. Nancy was close in and I saw her stiffen when a strong luscious scent filled her sensitive nostrils; a few steps and she stopped as if petrified. One of her hind feet was raised, and she dared not touch it to the ground for fear that one move would spoil our fun. As I walked in behind her, I heard a little noise in a brush pile not ten feet from her accurate point. One step farther and pandemonium broke loose! There was a whole covey of them, and they scattered in every direction. Such noise was too much for my inexperience and I stood dumbly helding an unfired gun—the excitement was far too great.

Nancy did not wait very long to relocate single after single, and when my first bird fell 'midst a cloud of feathers, and the setter delivered him to me, my racing heart was taxed to capacity. Right then I knew that ol' Master had "taken me in" where only the elect reside. The sun lighted golden brown ruffled feathers, and his warm heavy body gave ecstatic bliss equalled only by a fellow's first kiss. Both memories never to be forgotten.

It is not necessary to say how many birds I missed nor how much powder I burned, but three plump grouse just about fills the game pocket of a hunting coat and a hunter's heart can stand just so much.

It was hard for Nancy to understand our leaving because she was having the time of her life. As I turned my back on that scene and headed homeward, I doffed my hunting cap to the grandest of all game birds; to the beginning of a bright new chapter in my memory book of hunting, and silently, but reverently thanked the Master of the woodlands for the strength to endure that second mile of successful hunting.

# IT DOESN'T PAY

(Continued from page 26)

particular night, when they had already killed a deer, they "picked up" two bucks that had been killed the night previous, hidden in the brush, and removed the three of them to the Wheeler "hide out".

Rees declared that he had never assisted Shutt beyond delivering carcasses to the "lean-to" shed on the Wheeler property. When questioned as to how Shutt, who is small of stature, could handle a large twelve-point buck, weighing probably one hundred sixty pounds, raising it into the loft alone, he explained that Shutt used a block and tackle for their purpose. Another neat operational feature.

The two men agreed that the deer would be sold to unsuccessful hunters during the deer season of 1944 at prices ranging from $10.00 to $20.00 each, depending upon the quality of the antlers.

The entire month of November in Pennsylvania was quite mild. On one occasion Rees alleges that Shutt told him that he doubted whether he would be able to sell the deer, as the warm weather was causing the carcasses to spoil.

Shutt was the brains of the outfit, the "salesman" and to handle all sale transactions. Apparently some of the deer were sold by Shutt before the carcasses spoiled. In the latter part of November, Shutt gave his confederate a $10.00 and a $5.00 bill as his share of the proceeds from the sale of some deer. He also accredited him with $5.90 that Shutt had spent for some bearings for the Rees car. It seems reasonable to believe that Shutt had disposed of two or possibly three carcesses from his huge warehouse.

Shutt later admitted to officers that he had freely violated the Game Law since 1940. Retaliation against a Game Protector who caused him to be penalized $25.00 for "shooting a grouse while on the highway," deeply incensed him. On November 25, 1940, Shutt was being followed in his automobile by Game Protector Ostrum in Cameron County without Shutt's knowledge. A ruffed grouse crossed the road in front of the Shutt car and stopped on the edge of the road. Shutt immediately jumped from his car and shot at the bird. Simply another demonstration of his qualities as a sportsman. An occupant in Shutt's car paid the penalty for him. He was also the same man to whom Shutt fled in Harrisburg, when in his latest difficulties for advice and financial assistance.

Rees, in an amended statement, revealed that the four deer with which he was apprehended on January 1 were killed on December 28, between ten and eleven o'clock in the morning. He dressed the deer in the woods and returned to his home for lunch. After lunch he went to the Wheeler farm and told Shutt of his success. Together they returned to the place where the deer were killed, then secreted in the back of the Packard automobile owned by Rees. They were then taken to the "lean-to" shed on the Wheeler property, skinned out and reloaded in the rear of the Rees car. Rees informed investigating officers that he had given Shutt the two front quarters and one hind quarter of the fawn, button buck that he had killed for his assistance. The heads and hides of these animals were thrown in the back of the shed. Apparently these had been removed by Shutt prior to the search made of these premises. Investigators never located them. Rees also revealed that he was preparing to leave for Youngstown, Ohio, at the time of his arrest and intended to dispose of the deer among his friends and relatives in that State.

The longer the investigation was continued the more serious the situation became. Thomas Andrew McMahon, an Evangelist between 68 and 70 years of age, who had been befriended by the mother of Ezra Shutt many years ago, is acting as caretaker on the Shutt farm in Cameron County. He has resided on the property from time to time during the past ten years, being steadily residenced there for the past two years. He was questioned on January 15, 1945 concerning his knowledge of the seven-point buck deer found by officers on those premises on January 2.

He stated "I saw about two inches of a deer horn sticking out of the leaves (a huge pile of leaves in the Shutt barn) the latter part of December 1944. Ezra was out here on December 30. They killed a beef that day. When Ezra was coming from the woodshed I met him on the porch and asked him what he was going to do with "that" (deer in the barn). "Do with what?" he inquired. "That deer in the leaves." "Feed it to the dogs," he replied.

(Continued on page 39)

## FIELD NOTES

"Raccoons are very plentiful around here this fall and the market value of the pelts is so low that there is not much encouragement for the 'coon hunters and trappers this fall. It requires a considerable amount of work to properly skin, stretch and flesh a raccoon pelt and most hunters and trappers feel that it is not worth the time and labor spent. I personally feel the raccoon destroys a large amount of small game and I would also personally like to see some condition brought about that would encourage more hunting and trapping of raccoons."—Game Protector Maynard R. Miller, Honesdale, October 1945.

"Many foxes have been killed in this section. There are a number of trappers out, some quite successful. However, I do not believe their success at trapping will result in a satisfactory solution to the predator problem. In the first place the red fox is the only one sought—gray fox territory in the district is being avoided by all except one trapper. Secondly, no trapper is reaching into the true breeding and feeding ranges, but all are trapping along the roads and are taking only the foxes that come out to run and play there. And, finally, the natural discouragement caused by a falling off in returns is beginning to result in a discontinuance of operations by some.

"I feel we have just about trapped off the annual increase in the *red fox* population, leaving the *breeding population* about what it was. And, except for my own efforts and those of George Powley of Wilcox, gray foxes and other predators have not been much disturbed."—Game Protector L. B. Rosenkrans, Wilcox, October 1945.

---

Five breeds of dogs were found best for Army purposes, and only these, or positive crosses of these breeds, were accepted for military uses; they are the German Shepherd, Belgian Sheep, Doberman Pinscher, Collie and Schnauzer.

---

Ambergris is a curious substance that seems to be produced only in the intestines of sick whales; formerly used in perfume making, it has now been replaced by synthetic chemicals.

The female shrew interlaces leaves to make a roof for the nest.

---

The longest distance an arrow has been shot by a woman archer in "regular flight" shooting is 1,190 feet 9 inches. The record was made in 1941.

---

"Fish Warden Sheldon and I trapped foxes together this month. We put out our first traps on the fifth and had our first fox the next morning. By the end of the month we had pelted 97 foxes. Besides these, we had 17 stolen and 12 that pulled the stakes and escaped. The weather was very unfavorable for fox trapping as we had so much rainfall that it was impossible to make a set in this low flat country without carrying along some sand. In fact it got so wet that when we dug the bait hole, water would immediately fill it. Stakes seemed to be quite firm when driven, but as soon as a fox was caught and the stake was worked by the fox the water filled the hole and the stake pulled out very easily. Last year we had no trouble of this kind, but we learned that every trapping season is not the same. Raccoon hunters and duck hunters accounted for some of the foxes that were stolen, but this is a well populated community and a fox in a trap is seldom passed up by anyone it seems.

"One of the unusual experiences of a trapper happened to me this month. On one trip I had trapped a red fox and William Grimm, from the Research Department, was putting the coup de grace to it while I was resetting the trap. We thought the fox was finished and Bill was watching me when the fox grabbed Bill's foot. Bill jumped straight into the air in surprise and pain. The fox took off down through the woods with me after it. I almost had him several times and was still only a couple feet behind him when I decided I did not want him so badly after all.

"Later I caught the same fox. This time he was caught by the left foot and the right one was infected around the mark of the first trap. He was very light in weight and evidently had not fed very much with the bad leg, but it was gratifying to know that I could fool the same fox twice. I did not let him go to see if I could catch him the third time."—Game Protector Raymond M. Sickles, Linesville, October 1945.

---

To remove troublesome down and pin feathers from ducks after the heavy plummage has been plucked, melt three bars of paraffin in a shallow dish. Remove head and feet from duck and then roll it in the hot paraffin until it is entirely coated. Let the paraffin cool until it has hardened, and then peel it off. All the pin feathers and down will come off with it. Cost: about one-half cent a duck. Time saved; about 20 minutes.

---

## BOOK REVIEW

WILDWOOD WISDOM by Ellsworth Jaeger. Macmillan Company, Publishers, New York. $2.95.

This is a book for both the experienced woodsman and the newcomer to the pleasures of camping.

The first section of the book is devoted to equipment, packs, clothing, shelters, beds, fireplaces, fire building, firewood, the use of the ax and knife, sanitation, camp cookery and the identification of edible, poisonous and useful plants and trees.

The second half deals with the crafts and skills acquired as by-products of camping. There are chapters on barkcraft, canoes, portaging, trail craft, calling animals, primitive tools and weapons, camp furnishings and furniture, Indian lore, and woods in winter. Included are diagrams of how to make buckskin and rawhide and patterns showing how to make these skins into parkas, boots, caps and moccasins.

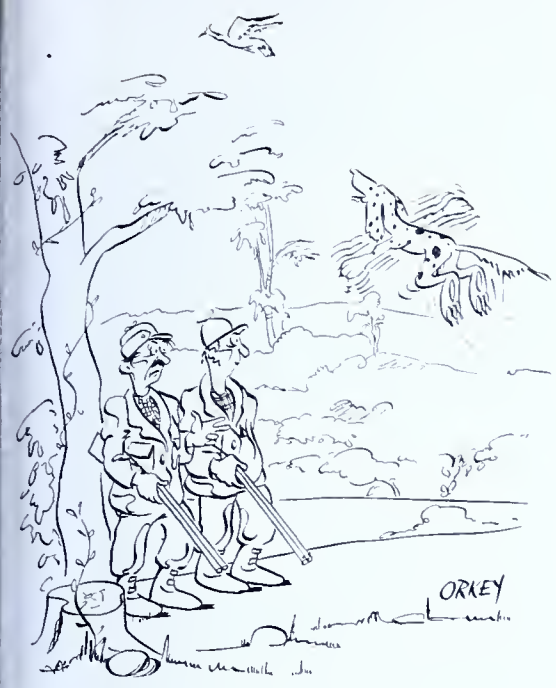
*Tranquility, Tranquility Revisited, and Tranquility Regained* by Col. Harold P. Sheldon, (Countryman Press Books) A. S. Barnes and Co., Pub., New York, N. Y.

There are no books on the subjects of hunting and fishing and life in the real New England country that have given as great pleasure to as many people as the stories contained in Col. Sheldon's three little books. Into the pages of these books the author has poured his love and feeling for hunting and fishing and for the warm beauty of the hills and countryside of Vermont.

POT LUCK by Roland Clark. A. S. Barnes & Co., 67 West 44th St., New York 18, N. Y. A Countryman Press book.

As a teller of tales that grip the hearts of men who go out in the early dawn and cast their decoys on rosy waters, or tramp the frosty uplands, Roland Clark is hard to surpass. Not only does he write delightfully about ducks and the men who hunt them, but he has also been drawing, painting and etching them with masterful technique for many years. This combination of author-artist has made him great among all lovers of wildfowling.

In this book Roland Clark has given us an insight into the ways of men who have as a common interest the strong tie of mutual love for wide open spaces. His characters are real and human. The whimsical sayings of these men ring true to all members of the gunning clan. They are so because his characters, real or fictional, are the type who have shared, at one time or another, in the life-long experiences of the author.




"Persistent, isn't he?"

## KNOW YOUR CARTRIDGES

Cartridges of caliber .30 are among the nost confusing of all ammunition to the ayman.

When one of the leading news magazines ecently found difficulty in distinguishing etween the 30-30 and the 30-06, it is no vonder that the average person, and that ncludes some military personnel, has tough oing finding his way around among the umerous cartridges of this class.

There is a vast difference, both in apearance and performance, between the arious thirties because most are intended or separate purposes, according to V. J. 'iefenbrunn, former champion rifle and pisol shot and ammunition expert of the Westrn Cartridge Company Division of Olin Inustries, Inc.

Here are the most widely known members f the Thirty Family: the Winchester 30-30, he 30-06 Springfield, the 30-40 Krag, the 00 Holland and Holland Magnum, the 30 aliber Winchester carbine, Savage .300 and 'emington .30.

Each is a cartridge of different shape and ize and each requires a gun chambered pecifically for it. However, despite the iversity of cartridges and the wide range of ullet shapes and weights, all of this ammuition has one thing in common. It is all aliber .30 which means that the diameter of ll bullets is three tenths of an inch.

In other words, no matter whether the 'hirties be slim, fat or pudgy, they all wear caliber .30 hat.

Thus, the numeral 30, which indicates calber, is common to the numerical designations f all Thirties. In the case of the "hyphenated hirties"—those which have a double-numeral ame like the 30-06—the second numeral can ean several things.

The "06" in Uncle Sam's 30-06 Springfield artridge, refers to the Springfield rifle as odified in 1906, for which this ammunition as designed.

The second "30" in Winchester's 30-30, efers to the number of grains of powder used the original 30-30.

Years ago some manufacturers added a ird numeral to indicate the weight of the bullet. Thus, a 30-30 loaded with a 170-grain bullet could be designated 30-30-170.

Before the war there were more than a dozen variations of the 30-30 cartridge, the variations being in the type and weight of the bullet and in the powder charge. All of these many cartridges could be used in the Model 94 Winchester rifle and the short Winchester rifle called the carbine which were the first to use the 30-30. However, this ammunition could also be fired in several other guns. The Model 94, descendant of the original lever-action gun that won the West, was the first American rifle for which smokeless powder cartridges were adapted. The 30-30 was the first American sporting cartridge loaded with smokeless powder.

From the standpoint of the number of different kinds of cartridges, the 30-30 is a piker compared with the 30-06. First, there are two general classifications of 30-06 ammunition: military and sporting.

Military cartridges for 30-06 rifles are made in two basic types, Mark 1 and Mark 2, and each of these general types has been made with various types of bullets such as ball, tracer, armor-piercing, incendiary, dummy and blank.

Prior to the war there was an assortment of more than two dozen kinds of 30-06 sportsing cartridges. Cartridges could be supplied with bullets weighing 110, 145, 150, 172, 180 and 220 grains. Following were among the different kinds of bullets made: Metal case, soft point, expanding, controlled expanding, pointed expanding, open point expanding, open point expanding boat-tail and soft point boat-tail.

And there were uses for each!

There were also five other kinds of Thirties produced before the war. The .30 Newton was made for Newton and Meeker rifles. The 30-40 Krag was made for the U. S. Krag-Jorgensen rifle which was the military weapon that preceded the Springfield. Cartridges for this gun were also used in various other rifles. The Savage .300 was made for the repeating rifle of the same name and the Remington .30 was made for guns of that company.

Most powerful of all the Thirties is the .300 Holland and Holland Magnum, outstanding hunting cartridge of British origin, with a companion match cartridge developed by Western Cartridge Company. These, the Jumbos of the Thirties, are accurate at ranges upward of 1,000 yards.

Contrasting sharply with the big H and H Magnum cartridge, is the smaller cartridge used in the caliber .30 Winchester carbine. It was developed by Winchester at the government's request for ammunition that would be effective at ranges up to 300 yards. Subsequently the New Haven Company also developed the carbine to shoot the ammunition.

Today, there are still many who believe erroneously that the Garand, Springfield and Winchester carbine all shoot the same ammunition because they are all caliber .30. However, the carbine cartridge would rattle around in the chamber of a Springfield or Garand, while the cartridge for the latter guns is too large for the carbine.

Ammunition made in this country for German Mauser 7.63 millimeter and Luger 7.65 millimeter pistols, is classed as .30 caliber by American manufacturers because their bullet diameters are approximately the same as those of the Thirties.

## "HAMHEAD HOG"
### By S. A. Orr and R. G. Rodkey

"You dumb mutt! I said pheasant, not peasant."

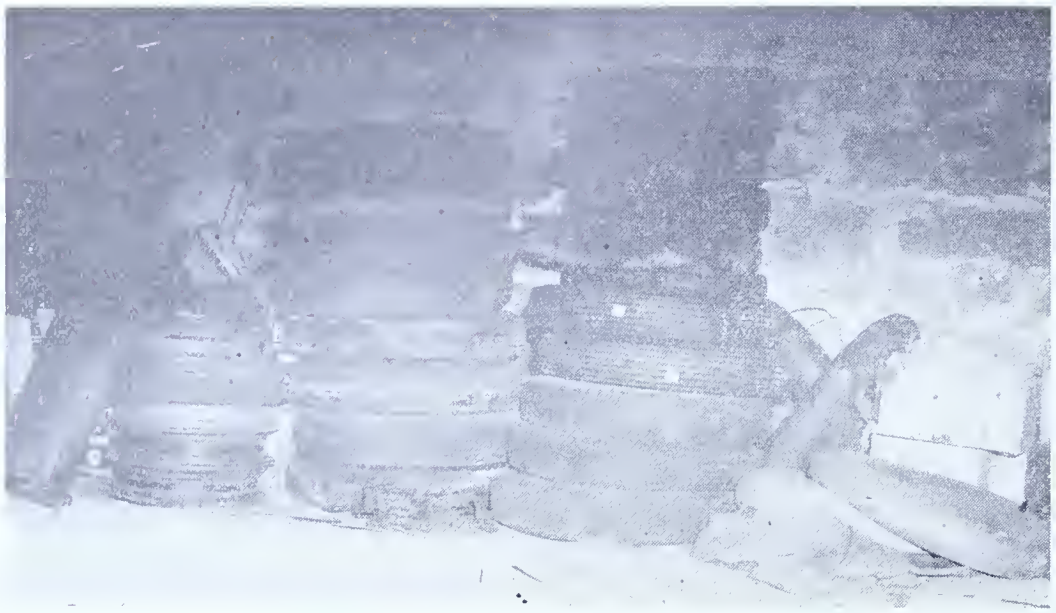
"You and your big mouth!"

## THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW

The black widow spider is only a half-inch long, yet it is more deadly than the rattlesnake when it bites. The black widow has fangs that work like those of the rattlesnake and insert poison. This spider is a menace in California and Mexico and is slowly spreading to new territory and may be found in unexpected spots. The black widow differs from the harmless spider species. It does not like the light and hides in dark places in buildings and deep cracks in stone walls, ready to strike at a careless hand. The identifying mark of the feared rattler is its tail. The black widow's mark is the red hour-glass it carries beneath its ebony black body. This spider becomes a destroyer two weeks after it leaves the egg sack in which it is born and starts to eat its own kind. After it mates, it devours its smaller and harmless black and white mate.

$10.00 reward for the recovery of an 1897 Model 30 Winchester Pump Gun with ribbed barrel and full choke—No. 845168. Left standing against a wire fence along a road near Sporting Hill, Lancaster County on November 1. Owner, M. G. Staffner, 3117 Susquehanna St., Harrisburg; phone 3-4340.

## IT DOESN'T PAY



Some of the automobile tires, etc., found during the investigation.

*Rees Again Prosecuted*

Rees, confronted with the facts discovered by the investigators, readily admitted his participation in the unlawful killing of the deer with spotlights at night and was again arraigned before Justice Wandall on the evening of January 15, 1945, charged with violation of Section 704 (f) of the Pennsylvania Game Code and more specifically, "did use . . . a mobile spotlight attached to a motor vehicle, namely, a 1938 Packard sedan bearing 1944 Pennsylvania registration 296H, and while using said automobile, its lights and spotlight attachment, did kill a deer."

He plead guilty and was directed to pay a fine of $100.00, together with costs in the amount of $13.85. The automobile, together with the spotlight was ordered forfeited to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the use of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, to be disposed of in accordance with the provisions of law at public sale. This time Rees was unable to pay the fine and costs and was committed to the Potter County jail for 113 days.

*Shutt Brought to Trial*

Lawyer Tompkins and his client, Shutt, appeared in Coudersport shortly before noon on January 16, 1945, and after learning that other charges were pending against his client pleaded surprise and requested a continuance to permit him to study the law and make determinations. The continuance was granted by Justice Wandall until 11:00 A.M. the following day, January 17, 1945. Shutt was unable to provide adequate bail and was committed to jail.

Earlier in the day Shutt had been able to satisfy the State Police that the articles seized at his home and "lean-to" shed were his property and lawfully obtained.

The cases against Shutt were continued as scheduled on January 17. Tompkins, his attorney entered a plea of not guilty to the two charges that had been filed against him "the unlawful possession of twelve deer," and "the unlawful use of a 1941 Packard sedan bearing Pennsylvania registration RM612, by killing deer through the use of a spotlight attached to the vehicle."

Commonwealth witnesses testified against Shutt in both cases. He declined to testify and was adjudged guilty and ordered to pay a fine of $1200.00, together with the costs of prosecution in the sum of $20.30 on the unlawful possession charge. On the second charge, that of the unlawful use of the motor vehicle to kill a deer, he was directed to pay a fine of $100.00 and costs of $15.35. The automobile was ordered forfeited to the Game Commission to be sold at public sale.

The defendant indicated a completely detached attitude during the entire hearings, was committed to jail in default. His attorney announced appeals would be filed within five days as required by law.

These appeals were filed and granted by the Honorable Robert R. Lewis, President Judge of the Court of Quarter Sessions in Potter County, on January 20, 1945. Shutt posted $1300.00 cash bail for his appearance, and was released from jail. The Court set February 8, 1945 to hear the appeals.

*Rees Packard Sold*

Meanwhile representatives of the Game Commission busied themselves with the necessary details to offer at public sale the Packard automobile seized from Rees.

The required legal notices were published in two newspapers of general circulation in the County for two successive weeks.

Spirited but brief bidding marked the sale on February 3, when the vehicle was sold to the highest bidder for $625.00, cash.

Deducting the encumbrance and the costs of sale, the Game Fund was enriched by $363.10.

*Judge Lewis Hears Appeals*

Judge Lewis has, for years, been a staunch, outstanding conservationist in Pennsylvania. He does little hunting with a gun, but does a lot with his movie camera. His friends can attest to the huge, diversified film library of wildlife pictures that he prizes so highly. Much of his time, energy and personal funds have been devoted to further the interests of the hunters and fishermen.

Surcease from his labors has found him a devoted student of ballistics and firearms.

*(Continued from page 2*

He is a recognized authority on both sul jects, and has a splendid collection.

Officers appearing in his Court know th they must have proper evidence to suppo their contentions or the defendant will acquitted.

At the time of trial, in a side bar co ference on February 8 with Judge Lew District Attorney Walter Wells, of Pott County, who represented the prosecution these appeals and Mr. Tompkins, lawyer f the defendant, the Shutt cases took anoth peculiar turn.

Mr. Tompkins informed the Court th his client was physically and mentally u fit to enter into a defense. He contend that Shutt was mentally irrational and h failed to subpoena several witnesses who he proposed to offer. In addition, Mr. Tom kins stated that he had been unable perfect the defense because of lack of c operation upon the part of Shutt. A co tinuance was requested.

Judge Lewis then decided to hear t prosecution's witnesses since they were pre ent in Court and later determine the que tion of granting the continuance.

The Court then directed that Shutt committed to the Warren State Hospital, institution for mental patients at Warre Pennsylvania, for thirty or more days f observation purposes. Bail was continu as established. He indicated that after r ceiving a report from the institution would determine the future course to pursued.

The proceedings came to an abrupt endi without final adjudication, when Ezra Sh died suddenly on the morning of March 1945 at the Warren State Hospital, appa ently from "an acute upset, secondary to l mental illness." His body was released his father for burial.

Two highly important legal problems n presented themselves. Extensive legal r search failed to reveal a single opinion f record, bearing the same conditions, th might be used as a precedent. The que tions, "Does the bail of $1300 automatica revert to the Commonwealth, because t defendant was convicted at summary pr ceedings?", and "Does the Commonwea gain possession of the 1941 Packard sed through forfeiture?", were argued by le minds, both in the affirmative and in t negative. Truly it was a strange situati without precedent and unparalleled in ga law enforcement.

The final chapter was written by Honorab Robert R. Lewis when he filed his forn opinion with the Prothonotary of Pot County on August 11, 1945. Requoted part the opinion said:

"We have before us for disposition t motions, filed on behalf of his admin trator, for abatement of the appeals, pa ment of the cash bail and delivery of seized property to him.

"It is well settled, that, upon the de of the defendant in a criminal action, pr to sentence, the proceeding abates. C viously this court has no authority to i pose a fine upon a dead man. The lowance of the appeals placed upon the

*(Continued on next page)*

dant the inherent duty of prosecuting m with effect. It is not the fault of Commonwealth, or the County, that y were not so prosecuted.

Let the appeal abate."

e abatement of the appeal having been ed the $1300 bail was returned to the e of the deceased defendant, and after ıg secured releases for the property in ossession, the Game Commission re- ished the automobile. Thus ended a story of game law violations—stranger fiction.

violations of any of our laws pay? lutely not. For a time the violator escape detection and apprehension, but ı the long arm of the law catches up him it is certainly very costly. Let's what it actually cost those who were essfully prosecuted in connection with case. Wheeler paid fines and costs totalling $208.00; Rees paid $208.00 and lost his automobile which sold for $625.00, and also lost his hunting license for two years. Rees' actual financial loss in playing this "sweepstakes gamble", when we credit him with the $20.90 which Shutt gave him, "for services rendered," was $812.90. He also spent more than thirty days in jail on related matters. Everyone will agree—it doesn't pay.

The carcasses of the deer seized in this case were found to be contaminated and unfit for human consumption. A conservative estimate places this food loss at more than a quarter of a ton, a sizeable quantity in these days when steaks, chops and roasts are not only at premium prices but difficult to obtain.

A sportman's paradise has been raided and vandalized, its perpetrators apprehended and punished.

The hundreds of hunters who spend their time, money and energies in the area covered by these ruthless killers are the real losers. Their losses cannot be replaced in dollars and cents. Little wonder they can't find the bucks. These fellows took them out, in the most unsportsmanlike and unscrupulous manner known to man—"spotlighting"—and for commercial purposes—long before the legitimate hunter even had a chance.

Every good citizen, whether from Pennsylvania, New York, or Florida, who hunts or fishes owes it to himself and those wildlife protecting agencies to furnish complete information of all persons suspected of violating the Game and Fish Laws so that recurrences of this character may be reduced to the very minimum, because "It Doesn't Pay."

# EIGHT-YEAR REPORT

## *(Based on Complete Tabulations of Hunter's Reports)*

Report is being reprinted from last month to correct errors in compilation made in the average annual kill due to the haste in getting copy ready for press.

| pecies | Season of 1937 | Season of 1938 | Season of 1939 | Season of 1940 | Season of 1941 | Season of 1942 | Season of 1943 | Season of 1944 | Average annual kill for period (A) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| , Legal Antlered | 39,347 | (closed) | 49,106 | 40,995 | 19,271 | 30,860 | 23,931 | 28,411 | 72,337 |
| , Legal Anterless | (closed) | 171,662 | 14,581 | 145,580 | (closed) | (closed) | 14,951 | (closed) | |
| Total Deer | 39,347 | 171,662 | 63,687 | 186,575 | 19,271 | 30,860 | 38,882 | 28,411 | |
| s | 537 | 384 | 535 | 524 | 593 | 149 | 307 | 295 | 416 |
| bits | 3,074,820 | 4,263,759 | 3,804,701 | 3,266,537 | 3,575,104 | 3,504,390 | 2,572,993 | 2,702,395 | 3,345,587 |
| s (Snowshoes) | 2,420 | 2,120 | (closed) | (closed | (closed) | 6,019 | 3,716 | 3,665 | 3,588 |
| garian Partridges | (closed) | (closed) | ..... | ..... | (closed) | 435 | 250 | 206 | 314 |
| rrels | 1,056,408 | 1,106,914 | 945,471 | 1,044,784 | 936,213 | 1,201,979 | 779,745 | 859,399 | 991,364 |
| oons | 29,842 | 36,046 | 38,452 | 40,802 | 44,145 | 32,664 | 45,320 | 49,746 | 39,627 |
| Turkeys | 6,619 | 6,766 | 5,191 | 5,218 | 3,911 | 3,938 | 2,297 | 2,849 | 4,599 |
| ed Grouse | 177,683 | 224,479 | 237,245 | 221,474 | 187,990 | 237,408 | 117,219 | 101,224 | 188,090 |
| neck Pheasants | 371,526 | 517,280 | 471,539 | 459,071 | 537,990 | 463,794 | 431,735 | 414,797 | 458,466 |
| l | 105,795 | 109,891 | 111,674 | 74,808 | 70,929 | 68,409 | 41,373 | 47,969 | 78,856 |
| dcocks | 57,244 | 50,085 | 40,816 | 29,087 | 31,328 | 27,729 | 15,588 | 16,400 | 33,535 |
| on's Snipe, Rails, Gallinules and Coots | 12,657 | 8,717 | 6,294 | 5,091 | 4,162* | 2,671* | 1,779* | 1,371* | 5,343 |
| kles (Blackbirds) | 78,543 | 78,613 | 47,449 | 43,204 | 46,566 | 33,888 | 25,764 | 39,175 | 49,775 |
| . Waterfowl | 16,758 | 21,329 | 38,474 | 53,060 | 55,836 | 64,454 | 53,998 | 52,716 | 44,578 |
| dchucks | (no record) | 145,528 | 178,691 | 190,735 | 196,729 | 184,921 | 157,202 | 171,722 | 153,191 |
| Total Number of Pieces | 5,030,199 | 6,743,573 | 5,990,219 | 5,619,970 | 5,710,767 | 5,868,758 | 4,288,168 | 4,492,340 | 5,467,999 |
| Total Weight | 12,805,172 | 25,525,899 | 17,794,984 | 26,553,237 | 13,089,898 | 14,199,510 | 12,219,461 | 11,912,961 | 16,762,652 |
| Reduced to Tons Equals | 6,402 | 12,762 | 8,897 | 13,277 | 6,645 | 7,100 | 6,110 | 5,956 | 8,393 |

*Does not include Snipe, season closed.
(A) Where certain species were not legal during the entire period the average was obtained by using the number of years such species were taken.

p your Game Protector look after your game between now and next gunning season. Remember he is only one man with many jobs to do and a lot of territory to cover

## How the Size of Shot is Determined

"How did you name the size of shot?"

This is one of the hundreds of questions asked Henry P. David, public relations division, Remington Arms Company, Inc., yearly.

"Here's the answer," says Davis.

"There is a simple way to tell the story. It involves one of the three Rs . . . 'rithmetic. The constant is 17!

"For instance, take a Number 8 shot . . . subtract 8 from 17 and you get (in hundredth inches) .09."

"Here's the rest of it, in size (diameter still in hundredth inches). SEVENTEEN is the keynote!

| | *Size* | *Diameter* |
|---|---|---|
| 17 | 9 | .08″ |
| 17 | 8 | .09″ |
| 17 | 7½ | .095″ |
| 17 | 7 | .10″ |
| 17 | 6 | .11″ |
| 17 | 5 | .12″ |
| 17 | 4 | .13″ |
| 17 | 3 | .14″ |
| 17 | 2 | .15″ |
| 17 | 1 | .16″ |
| | BB | .18″ |

---

The fangs of a rattler are fixed on movable bone and when the mouth opens they move forward. Fangs are found only in poisonous snakes.

---

"The Crow Call" is another interesting organ which is published by the Crow Foot Rod and Gun Club of Wilkinsburg. It's chockfull of interesting notes.

---

## FOX VERSUS QUAIL

Two Georgia sportsmen recently concluded that because foxes are abundant and quail scarce in that state this year, the foxes must have eaten the birds.

These sportsmen did not think any further than their noses. There are other obvious explanations for the decrease of the quail population in Georgia.

For one reason, a poor breeding season might have caused quail to become scarce.

Because of exceptionally abundant hardwood masts such as sweet gum, acorns, etc., as well as pine mast in some sections, quail simply did not come out in the fields. The coveys being out of their accustomed haunts, it took some time for sportsmen to learn that this was the answer to the alleged scarcity of the birds in some sections.

There is also the fact that many birds and mammals increase and decrease in cycles and there isn't much to be done about it.

Part of the reason for fox increase in Georgia, however, is no doubt due to the fact that waste parts of farms and idle fields have been allowed to grow into brush so thick and jungle-like that hunting there has become impossible. Such density of undergrowth made the area uninhabitable for quail, but good living quarters for foxes.

---

Pollinating insects, such as honeybees and bumblebees, are not injured by sabadilla, a new insecticide for alfalfa, as they are by DDT.

## OFFICIAL 1945 OPEN SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS

**(All Shooting Hours Based on Eastern Standard Time)**

Open season includes both dates given, Sundays excepted for game. On November 1 no hunting of any kind before 9 A. M. With this exception, shooting hours daily are 7 A. M. to 5 P. M., except from July 1 to September 30 inclusive, 6 A. M. to 7:30 P. M. Raccoons may be hunted at night, with a noon-to-noon daily limit.

| UPLAND GAME (Small game possession limit two days' bag) | Bag Limits Day | Bag Limits Season | Seasons Open | Seasons Close |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Squirrels, Red | Unlimited | | Nov. 1 | Sept. 30, 1946 |
| Grackles (commonly called Blackbirds) | Unprotected | | until September 30, 1946 | |
| Hares (Snowshoe Rabbits) | 2 | 6 | Dec. 17 | Jan. 1, 1946 |
| Raccoons, by individual or hunting party* | 4 | 20 | Oct. 22 | Feb. 1, 1946 |
| Raccoons, by trapping (Statewide)* | | 20 | Nov. 1 | Feb. 1, 1946 |

**FUR-BEARERS—(See note under Special Regulations)***

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Minks, Skunks and Otters* | Unlimited | | Nov. 1 | Feb. 1, 1946 |
| Muskrats (By traps only)* | Unlimited | | Dec. 1 | Feb. 1, 1946 |
| Beavers (By traps only)* | | 2 | Feb. 15 | Mar. 1, 1946 |
| Opossums | Unprotected | | until September 30, 1946 | |

***SPECIAL REGULATIONS**

**Raccoon Hunting**—The season begins at noon on the opening date, and ends at same hour on the closing date.

**Raccoon Trapping**—Traps not to be placed before 9 A. M., on the opening date (see instructions below concerning lifting traps on closing date).

**Beavers**—Statewide trapping permitted, except where dams are posted by Commission. Non-Residents may not trap beavers. One person may set, tend or operate 10 traps only. Traps must not be placed closer than 15 feet from the waterline on any established beaver house. Trappers are required to keep tags above ice or waterline to facilitate identification without disturbing traps. Pelts must be tagged within 10 days after season, and may not be sold or otherwise disposed of until properly tagged. Present them to Protector in District or County where trapped.

**Trapping**—Traps for fur-bearers and raccoons not to be placed before 9 A. M. on Nov. 1 or before 7 A. M. on any later opening date for trapping. The season on the last date indicated for trapping closes at 12 o'clock noon to permit removal of animals caught on the last night of the season and lifting traps by daylight.

**Snares**—No counties open to use of snares.

**MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS—FEDERAL SEASONS**

| | Daily Limits | 1945 Open Seasons |
|---|---|---|
| Coots | 25 | Oct. 13-Dec. 31 |
| Wild Duck, except American and Redbreasted Mergansers (See Exceptions)* | 10* | Oct. 13-Dec. 31 |
| American and Redbreasted Mergansers | 25 | Oct. 13-Dec. 31 |
| Wild Geese and Brant | 2* | Oct. 13-Dec. 31 |

***Exceptions**—The regular daily duck limit of 10 shall not include more than one (1) Wood Duck. In addition to the daily limit for Geese or Brant, 4 Blue Geese and Snow Geese (either singly or in the aggregate), may be taken. Possession Limit: Ducks, Geese, Brant and Woodcock, twice the daily bag (except on opening day), but only one (1) Wood Duck. No possession limit after first day on American and Redbreasted Mergansers. Other migratory game birds, daily bag only. Possession 90 days after season.

**No Open Season**—Wilson's Snipe (Jacksnipe), Ross's Geese and Swans.

**Shooting Hours**—(Eastern Standard Time). All migratory game birds: From beginning of respective open seasons to October 31 inclusive, one-half hour before sunrise to sunset; November 1, 9 A. M. to 5 P. M.; November 2 to end of respective seasons 7 A. M. to 5 P. M. (unless sunset occurs earlier, when Federal sunset regulation automatically applies). Exception: On the open waters of Lake Erie and the open tidal waters of the Delaware River lying within the Commonwealth from Trenton Falls to the Delaware State line not including inland tidal water), when shooting from boats or blinds at least 100 yards from shore, the Federal one-half hour before sunrise to sunset regulation applies throughout the waterfowl season, except on November 1, when shooting before 9 A. M. is unlawful.

## THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW

Of the five most common wild geese, the Canadian Goose is the noisiest. This fast-flying bird is more often heard than seen, as its powerful wings keep it high in the sky. It is a good parent and very proud, keeping within its kind and shunning all others. The only time it loses its dignity is after the young are hatched. Then both parents lose their feathers, a season's molt, and cannot fly. The Canadian Goose is a vegetarian, feeding on roots and aquatic plants while on water and while on land visiting fields for grain. To many Americans the honking sound of geese is a true sign of changing seasons.

---

Planting an area to forest usually means setting out approximately 800 trees to the acre.

## ANSWERS TO WHAT'S WRONG

1. Screech owls roost and nest in holes, bu they do not dig their own.

2. Wood ducks are not found out at sea.

3. Snakes do not "sting" with their tongue This functions merely as a sensory apparatus.

4. Mergansers, like other ducks, fly with thei head and neck extended.

5. Woodchucks have only four toes that sho on their front feet and five on their hind fee There is a rudimentary "thumb", a mere stu with a nail, on the inner side of each forepaw

6. Dragon flies have four wings.

---

More than 18,000 dogs were enlisted i 1943 for war service with the America forces.

# PICTORIAL

VETERANS OF THE VALLEY FORGE GENERAL HOSPITAL RECENTLY "WENT TO THE DOGS" WHEN 'COON DOG ENTHUSIASTS FROM SERVERAL STATES MET NEAR THE HOSPITAL AND PUT ON A LARGE FIELD TRIAL FOR THEIR BENEFIT. THE EVENT WAS SPONSORED BY WEST CHESTER LEGIONNAIRES AND WAS FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT THE HOSPITAL FOR EVERYONE, SPECTATORS AND PARTICIPATORS. THE ABOVE PHOTO SHOWS PART OF THE GALLERY OF WOUNDED VETS, WHEREAS THE LOWER PICTURE SHOWS ONE OF THE COMPETING GROUPS OF DOGS ON THE TAKE-OFF.

# Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

# PENNSYLVANIA Game News

Pennsylvania State Library
DOCUMENTS SECTION

January 1946 Ten Cents

38.34
1.6

# PENNSYLVANIA GAME NEWS

## The PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION, HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA


COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

EDWARD MARTIN, GOVERNOR

★

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

Ross L. Leffler, *President* .....Pittsburgh
Robert Lamberton, *Vice-President* .....Franklin
Col. Nicholas Biddle .....Bethayres
G. I. Phillips .....Alexandria
Harold Moltz .....Williamsport
Dr. H. E. Kilgus .....Brockway
John C. Herman .....Dauphin
B. K. Williams .....East Stroudsburg

Administrative Office

Seth Gordon .....*Executive Director*
R. A. McCachran .....*Assistant Director*

Division of Lands

W. Gard. Conklin .....*Chief*

Division of Accounting & Budget

N. E. Slaybaugh .....*Comptroller*

Division of Public Information

Leo A. Luttringer, Jr. .....*Chief*
*Editor*, Pennsylvania Game News

Training

W. M. Cramer .....*Supt. Training School*

Bureau of Field Operations

Division of Law Enforcement

W. C. Shaffer .....*Chief*

Division of Land Management

James N. Morton .....*Chief*

Division of Research
(Vacancy)

Propagation & Distribution

Earl S. Greenwood .....*Acting*

Field Division Supervisors

Division "A"—M. J. Golden, 602 Penn Ave., West Reading, Pa.,
Berks, Bucks, Chester, Dauphin, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, York.

Division "B"—Jay C. Gilford, Wyoming Ave. and Welles St., Forty Fort, Pa.
Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming.

Division "C"—Thomas F. Bell, 352 E. 3rd St., Williamsport, Pa.
Bradford, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga, Union.

Division "D"—William J. Davis, 327 Penn St., Huntingdon, Pa.
Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry.

Division "E"—M. E. Sherman, 1 E. Du Bois Ave., Du Bois, Pa.
Cameron, Center, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, Potter

Division "F"—Hayes T. Englert, 14 W. 1st St., 2d Floor, S. S. Oil City, Pa.
Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, Warren.

Division "G"—Rollin Heffelfinger, 405 Main St., 2d Floor, McClellan Bldg., Irwin, Pa.
Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, Westmoreland.


## HOW TO SUBSCRIBE

RATES—$0.50 per year to residents of Pennsylvania, regardless of address. $1.00 per year for Non-Residents of Pennsylvania. (Out-of-State, District of Columbia, Canadian or Foreign.) Club rates are available to organizations presenting 10 or more subscriptions in a single order. Remittances by check or money order to be made payable to the Department of Revenue, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. CASH FORWARDED AT SENDER'S RISK. STAMPS NOT ACCEPTED. Your local Game Protector, County Treasurer or other Hunting License Issuing Agent will take your subscription; or you may forward it direct to the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.

Please report all changes of address promptly, sending both your old and new addresses.

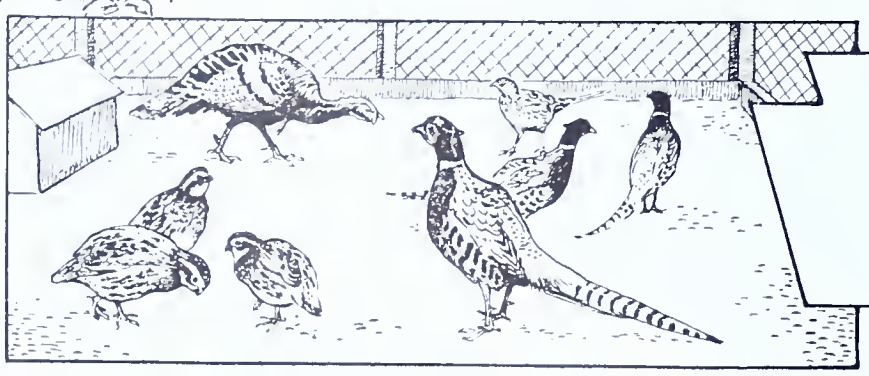
Please address all communications to the Editorial Office.

Publication office, Cameron and Kelker Sts., Harrisburg, Pa.
Executive and editorial office, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.
Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, under Act of March 3, 1879.

Permission to reprint will be granted provided proper credit is given.

Mailed in conformity with P.O.D. Order No. 19687.

Effective July 1, 1946, the subscription fee will be increased to $1.00 for one year, $1.50 for two years, and $2.00 for three years for everyone, residents and non-residents, with a special rate of 50 cents for sportsmen's organizations that desire to include subscriptions as a part of their annual dues.



VOL. XVI, NO. 10

# EDITORIAL

January, 1946

## IN THIS ISSUE

**Atomic Power in Fur**
By Jacob Bates Abbott

★

**Julia Takes Over**
By N. R. Casillo

★

**Propagated Quail versus Wild Quail As Studied Under Laboratory Conditions**
By Ralph B. Nestler and John R. Langenbach

★

**Foxhunting in Chester County**
By Gilbert Mather

★

**Well, What's Wrong?**
By Jacob Bates Abbott

★

**The Beaver**
By Caroline A. Heppenstall

★

**Is the Pen Mightier?**

★

**The 20th Annual Conservation Conference of the State Division of the Izaak Walton League**

★

**Guns and Gun Dogs**
By Ted Trueblood and Herbert Kendrick

★

**The Dearth of Small Game**
By L. D. Reddinger

★

**Cover by Jacob Bates Abbott**

☆ ☆ ☆

## *We Believe Pennsylvania Sportsmen Want the Best*

Sixteen years ago PENNSYLVANIA GAME NEWS was formally introduced in order to give Pennsylvania Sportsmen an accurate picture of what their fellow outdoorsmen and the Game Commission were doing in the interest of conservation, wildlife management, increase of game lands, and better hunting. This magazine has grown from a mimeographed pamphlet of a few sheets into the 32-page periodical with a four-color cover that now comes into your home monthly. It has improved gradually—but can be made still more interesting and educational, and the Commission plans to do just that.

The improvement that will be apparent in the near future should put GAME NEWS among the top flight State Conservation magazines; in fact, compare favorably with the best of the National Sporting periodicals in the Country.

Articles by nationally known authors on hunting, camping, adventure, and conservation; monthly features by experts on arms and ammunition, field dogs and animal life; and a monthly column devoted to all the important activities of the Game Commission will appear in its pages. Excellent photographs and drawings will illustrate these writings. Additional features will be included from time to time.

We want your cooperation—your partnership as it were—in making this good magazine the best. After July 1, 1946, the subscription price to GAME NEWS will be one dollar ($1.00) for one year, one dollar and a half ($1.50) for two years and two dollars ($2.00) for three years, for *everyone,* residents or non-residents. Subscriptions entered between now and July 1, 1946 will remain in force at the current rate until they expire. A special rate of fifty cents will also become effective at that time for the benefit of those sportsmen's organizations that desire to include subscriptions as a part of their annual dues, to be remitted in lots of ten or more at a time. The present "club rate" is forty cents.

The present subscription fee of fifty cents has not been adequate to make the publication self-sustaining, or to improve it from the standpoint of better paper, better text, and better illustrations.

Help us to make GAME NEWS not only one of the very best outdoor periodicals on the market, but to increase its circulation to the 100,000 level before another year goes by.

☆ ☆ ☆

*We salute those of our little family who served or are still serving in the armed forces, whose names appear on the frontispiece, and eagerly await the day when all will have returned. Many have; others will—the sooner the better. And to those who wish them we will be glad to furnish a separate copy of the Honor Roll suitable for framing.*

☆ ☆ ☆

# Pennsylvania Game Commission

# HONOR ROLL

James S. Arthurs
Col. Nicholas Biddle
Gilbert L. Bowman
John I. Buck
Joseph L. Budd
Millard M. Crooks
Harry W. DeFina
Daniel H. Fackler
Richard Gerstell
Wm. C. Grimm
Jackson S. Kepner
George W. Koehler
Harold C. Kornman
C. Gordon Krieble
James L. Latimer
Robert E. Latimer
Robert Lichtenberger
Robert D. McDowell
Wm. A. Miller
James N. Morton
Wm. A. Moyer
Wm. R. Overturf
Robert D. Parlaman
Robert D. Reed
Nicholas M. Ruha

William R. Schaffstall
Henry H. Schell
Martin L. Shaffer
John Shuler
David R. Titus
Roy W. Trexler
Albert A. Wargo
Lloyd B. Welch
Ralph E. Flaugh
A. Clinton Ganster
Fred L. Myers
George B. Smith
Louis B. Mostoller
Herbert P. Kaufman
John Beule
Philip H. Melching (deceased)
Walter D. Keib
Catherine Miles
Jack Anderson
Percy Kaiser
Richard Eglie
Clair W. Dinger
Clifford L. Ruth
Temple Reynolds
A. J. Zaycosky

J. A. Leiendecker
Harold E. Russell
Duane E. Lettie
Chester S. Siegel
William H. Hodge
Everett G. Eakin
Wm. L. R. Drake
John P. Eicholtz
Edwin W. Flexer
John I. Hendricks
Delbert L. Batcheler
George W. Miller
Samuel K. Weigel
Robert L. Sinsabaugh
Michael Grabaney
R. Stanley Cooper
Donald E. Miller
George W. Levis
James A. Brown
George L. Norris
Clyde V. Myers
Orvis Wagner
James A. Osman
Raymond H. Morningstar
Clyde Decker

Two mountain lions were feeding on the frozen carcass of a mule deer.

# ATOMIC POWER IN FUR

## By JACOB BATES ABBOTT

THIS was high country. Drifts choked the aisles of fir and spruce and lay deep in the eroded fissures of the Sierran rimrock. Only the distant peaks were touched with salmon-pink, for the sun was not yet high enough to color the cold blue tide that swept among the serrated black ranks of the advancing forest. It was forty below and the cold was a living force, stifling breath with its intensity. A dark, heavily-furred, shambling beast plowed through the powdery snow of a trackless gully. Low-slung and belly-deep in the drifts, his dark brown fur was coarse and shaggy with a wide band of dirty yellow on either flank. His face was a dark mask of ferocity, framed by the same dingy white on forehead and cheek ruffs. He carried his head low as his rough coat rippled over the high curved ridges of his moving shoulder blades. He seemed to know where he was going and his powerful forequarters pushed a wide swath through the snow. At one point he stopped in his tracks, sat up on his haunches, and peered scrutinizingly ahead. SHADING HIS EYES WITH ONE FOREPAW! In this attitude he looked for all the world like a hairy dwarf. It was uncanny—this beast of the frozen wilderness behaving like a misshaped human. After earnestly examining some distant object, our fur-bearing snow plow carried on down the slope, dropped into a drift-swept box canyon, and—things began to happen. Snarls and cat-calls spluttered out of the gully but only a single gutterall cough came from the cause of all this disturbance.

Here's the low-down: Two mountain lions, one a big one, the other of medium size, were feeding on the frozen carcass of a mule deer. The wolverine (for this is our undersiung friend), though not a large specimen, approached the kill doggedly. After much snarling and threatened resistance, the two lions—together 300 pounds of killing force—gave way before the steady advance of 20 pounds of *gulo luscus*. Did they, though, surrender just to a small wolverine? Ernest Thompson Seton in "Lives of Game Animals" thinks not. Referring to the above episode, he says: . . . "they surrendered to a stronger personality, to a more compelling and masterful soul. King Beast of the Sierras, indeed!"

He sat on his haunches and peered scrutinizingly ahead.

This drama of the high Sierras at Sequoia, California is briefly reported by Mr. Walter Fry, Chief of the Guide Service, Sequoia National Park in his fine article on the wolverine in "California Fish and Game," October, 1923.

Glutton, Carcajou, Skunkbear, Kuickhatch are only a few of the pet names given to the wolverine, largest member of the weasel family and the huskiest bundle of sinews, muscle and fearless determination in the animal world. Give him a helmet and the signals, he would be the only dynamic force I know of that might replace Doc Blanchard in the Army backfield. He has the necessary brains. However, there the comparison but definitely stops. For *gulo luscus*, to give him his Latin name, has an implacably devilish disposition to add to his unrelenting will. "Indian Devil" of the Chippewas, he is named *järf* by the Scandanavians and *rossomaka* by the Russians, for this gigantic, shaggy weasel is circumpolar in range, throughout the barren grounds and snowbound spruce forests of the world. Nowhere is his clan abundant.

An average wolverine is four feet long, twelve inches of which is a long-haired tail. A big male would go to 35 pounds, with the average weight about 26. The fur is dark brown, long and coarse and his feet, besides being provided with fur socks to their very soles, are armed, each one, with five keen, white, sickle-shaped claws, capable of rip-

*(Continued on page 20)*

# JULIA TAKES OVER

By N. R. CASILLO

*Illustrated by Jacob Bates Abbott*

"Wow—she leads like a dog," Robb pointed out.

IT WAS one of those rare days in early fall so characteristic of western Pennsylvania. Leaves on most of the deciduous trees and shrubs had changed to their autumnal colors, the various species vying with one another as they flaunted flaming or otherwise conspicuous pigmentation. Glowing sumachs and maples and more somber oaks bordering the meandering Shenango had heightened its ordinary beauty to a degree that was almost unbelievable.

The *Single Elm* swimming hole, deserted by human habitues was now the rendezvous of a lone snapping turtle, a pair of muskrats and an occasional bass and giant carp. Across the river, directly opposite the lone elm that gave the place its name, was the narrow channel leading into Horseshoe Eddy, a small sycamore bordered pond where as recently as that fall Barge Klee had caught a 41 pound snapper. In summer, to the average boy it was one of those inaccessible and fascinating places frequented only by an occasional fisherman fortunate enough to possess a boat, and by wandering herons, ducks and stray Canada geese. This was all the more remarkable because the place was just a few hundred yards below the Harbor bridge and about three miles from the center of town as the crow flies.

The early afternoon sun beating down with mid-summer ardor on the burnished leaves of meadowsweet and steeplebush growing so profusely on the scrubby expanse that was Prokypolowicz's pasture, had embued a handful of boys with sufficient enthusiasm to prompt one of them to yank off his shirt and vehemently express his desire to go in swimming. All hands eagerly assented.

So after a lunch of blackened half-raw potatoes, topped off with a nickel's worth of soft fudge purchased at Ziegler's candy shop, the quintet smothered the fire and prepared to leave for the Single Elm. This necessitated the taking of a circuitous route past the Willows in back of the water works, around the Big Eddy and through a patch of alders and other swamp growth flanking the tracks of the Bessemer Railroad. The group consisted of Barge Klee, Ferret Rogers, Artie Alexander, Robb Stewart and his brother Eddie.

Upon reaching their destination Artie, with his usual dash, pulled off the piece or two of clothing still clinging to him, for most of the disrobing was accomplished en route, gingerly touched the water with cringing toes, yelled bloody murder and jumped into the frigid stream.

"Yippee," he yelled with a distinct catch in his voice, "the water is as warm as toast." And the rest swarmed in, whooping like Indians.

The first to come out was skinny Eddie Stewart, bent and shivering with the cold, his lips a purplish hue and his buck teeth clicking like the wheels of a speeding train.

"Where's Robb?" he chattered, looking about him.

"He was here a couple of minutes ago," replied Ferret as he dashed for his clothes.

Artie and Barge were the last to quit the water, splashing and blowing like porpoises and vigorously swinging their arms to restore congealed circulations.

"Did you fellas see Robb?" repeated the anxious Eddie as he jerked a sodden shirt into place.

"Huh?" the two grunted together.

"Where's he gone to?" asked Artie wonderingly.

"We dunno," answered Ferret. "But his clothes are gone too."

"Aw that's all right then," Artie assured the two younger boys. "So long as he's not on the bottom of the river it's O. K."

Eddie's older brother Robb was a tall, loose-jointed boy who had a knack with things outdoors. He was a dead-ringer for his father, a former Canadian trapper, except that the boy lacked the gnarled and tough, well-seasoned stature of his parent.

Up until he was eleven Robb stammered so badly that he could scarcely conduct an intelligible conversation. Then by one of those inexplicable quirks of chance he made the startling discovery that if he prefaced whatever he was about to utter with one or two enthusiastic and vigorous WOWS he could usually finish more or less coherently. If his impediment stalled him in the middle of a sentence he could again clear his sound track by yelling HIP at the top of his lungs. He had progressed so well that there were times when he could even omit the prefatory words.

". . . yelled bloody murder and jumped into the frigid stream.

The four half-frozen swimmers hastily dressed, built a roaring fire and then crept as closely to it as possible. Robb's mysterious disappearance was of course, the chief topic. All were puzzled while Eddie was also not a little worried.

After a prolonged silence Artie suggested that they all yell his name in unison. "Maybe he'll hear us and yell back," he reasoned.

The yell frightened a flock of teal and a blue heron quietly feeding over in Horseshoe Pond, but no answer from the missing comrade was forthcoming. They tried again and listened long and carefully.

The soft *tong-a-tong* of distant cowbells floated musically through the hushed air. A cow over in Nixon's pasture lowed long and ardently. Then from over in the direction of the Second Eddy, some two-hundred yards away, came a reply.

"WOW-WOW, I'm a-comin'."

The boys looked at each other in askance.

"That's Robb all right," said Eddie, "but boy, he's sure excited."

Very soon Robb emerged from the growth of small trees fringing the Eddy and rapidly strode toward his companions. Even from a distance they could see that he carried something dark and bulky in the crook of his arm.

"WOW," exploded Robb as he approached the now horrified group. "I've got him!"

"Holy smokes," Barge yelped. "It's a skunk!"

"B-b-b-b—HIP, but she's dead," quickly replied Robb.

"How ju get it?" chorused Ferret and Eddie.

"In this," he came back, holding up for their inspection the right foreleg of the big skunk. To the member was clamped a rusty fox trap of the jump variety.

"Boy, but she's a lulu," Ferret observed as he cautiously sidled alongside.

"WOW, ain't she a beaut?" Robb beamed.

On the way back to the Stewart home the skunk recovered consciousness, but Robb hung on to it without any deleterious results. By the time they reached the gate leading from the pasture, just across the

street from their destination, the skunk had regained all of her senses albeit still a bit groggy from the effects of Robb's wallop.

It was a tickled group that paraded into the Stewart garage (much to Mrs. Stewart's consternation), for here was a real live skunk that seemed so gentle and tractable to boot.

"Say, we can start a fur farm now," envisioned Eddie.

"How'r you gonna get that trap off her leg is what I want to know?" queried Ferret. "You can't expect even a skunk to raise a family with that thing hitched to its leg."

"WOW, easy 'nough," Robb replied. "Now watch." And he demonstrated by placing the animal on the floor and carefully removing the trap. The skunk finding itself on its feet once again and without the cumbersome trap cramping its style, feebly shook herself and sniffed the floor in her immediate vicinity with mildly speculative interest. The boys felt like pioneers in a dangerous and revolutionary experiment. Had they not seen with their own eyes, a creature with an evil reputation handled with utter freedom and impunity?

Before nightfall the skunk was safely placed in a crate where it was later viewed by the phlegmatic Mr. Stewart. That gentleman, after a brief survey and several contemplative grunts, not only suggested but demanded that the animal be removed from the premises. Therefore, Julia (as she had been dubbed), spent her first night in captivity in a chicken crate ensconced in a corner of Prokypolowicz's cow pasture.

Next morning at daybreak Robb slipped downstairs into the kitchen, gathered up some table scraps, garnered a leg of chicken from the ice box and went out to feed his charge.

Julia had apparently had an active night the confines of the crate notwithstanding, so that Robb not only found her ready to eat but actually hungry. He watched her for some little time as she munched away at the rich fare. Then he reached through between the slats of the crate and actually stroked the thick glossy fur.

"WOW," he muttered delightedly, "she's as tame as a kitten."

Immediately after school on that same day, the Stewart boys accompanied by Barge and Ferret, hied themselves to the pasture with the express purpose of giving Julia some exercise.

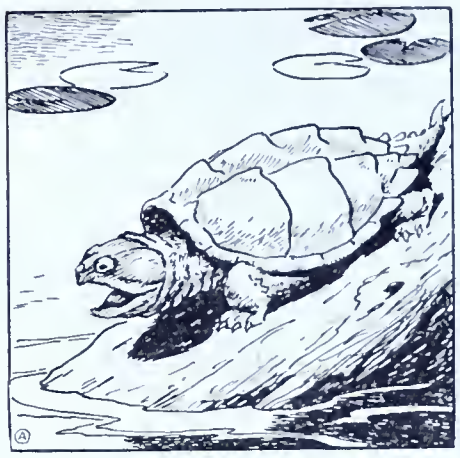
"It's mean to keep an animal caged up without any chance of doing a little runnin' 'round," observed Ferret.

Robb gave him a quizzical look and scratched his head. "WOW," he agreed, "but how're we gonna do it?"

"Tie a rope 'round her neck and lead her like a dog," Barge suggested.

When the boys reached the pasture they found Julia sound asleep. Mrs. Stewart's clothes line was spirited from the garage and Robb performed the delicate operation of tying one end of it around Julia's neck, a performance in which he exhibited the utmost coolness and deftness.

Next, the crate was unceremoniously tipped on its side, one of the slats removed and Julia *dragged* out. Sometimes even nitroglycerine may be handled with impunity without disturbing its hair-trigger equanimity.



**The swimming hole was now the rendezvous of a lone snapping turtle.**

Robb held the improvised leash while the skunk ambled on ahead, her bushy tail at half-mast and her dull, little eyes fastened to the ground. The rest of the boys followed at a respectable distance, all three giggling delightedly.

"WOW—she leads like a dog," Robb pointed out.

And as if to further substantiate what was being said of her, Julia swung into a well-worn cow path to patter along as amiably as you please in spite of her pinched toes.

Throwing aside all caution the trio bringing up the rear came up alongside of Robb, the four forming a rough semi-circle to Julia's stern.

At a little fill of earth where the path passed over a ditch, the skunk paused and sniffed investigatingly at a piece of turf. The quartet stopped and looked on, their expressions oddly resembling those of fond parents watching the antics of a precocious offspring.

The animal was intrigued by what she smelled for she jerked forward on the line much like a horse demanding more head, and sharply stamped her left forefoot. Then she pulled vigorously and made for the exposed end of a nearby drain pipe. All hands followed.

"Give her more rope," excitedly urged Ferret. "She's probably trailin' something."

"WOW—a huntin' skunk," glowed Robb, "just like a setter or a pointer, may be better."

The restraining rope seemed to have exhausted Julia's patience for she suddenly stopped, cleared her decks and let fly. The boys' faces were a study in expressions. No one was spared. Robb however, received more than his share, the concentrated charge hitting him full in the face.

"WOW—WOW, I-I-I-HIP can't see," he wailed as he blindly groped about, still clinging to the leash.

The demoralized boys managed to partly lead and drag their moaning comrade into the garage after the treacherous Julia had been carefully deposited in her crate.

Mrs. Stewart, hearing the sounds of anguish, rushed from the house and both saw and smelled the plight of her offspring. Strong soap, kerosene and plenty of elbow grease were the available antidotes and you can wager that Robb was given a liberal dosage.

Shortly after the catastrophe Mr. Stewart appeared on the scene and he needed no clairvoyant powers to detect what had happened.

"Where's that skunk?" he stormed.

"WOW," wailed the thoroughly nauseated Robb, "in the pasture out in the chicken crate."

Then while he railed about his witless sons, he sought the only available firearm, an old muzzle loading smooth bore that had been in the family for a couple of generations. Loading it with a stout charge of powder and shot he stalked out to end Julia's brief career.

With sharp snout buried in bushy tail Julia was sleeping soundly, oblivious of the disaster that threatened.

When only a few paces from his slumbering victim Mr. Stewart paused, peered carefully at the shapeless ball of fur and then lifted the gun to his shoulder.

He aimed long and deliberately for that spot on the animal's spine which if hit would not only instantly end Julia's blameless life but also paralyze her faculties for one last punishing broadside.

A quarter of a minute ticked off, and then a half. Mr. Stewart lowered his musket. Had the flinty heart of the *ex-voyageur* softened or was it his reluctancy to kill an unprime furbearer?

Whatever it was that prompted the action no one will ever know. Anyway, he cautiously approached the crate, removed a

*(Continued on page 31)*

**". . . she let go with both barrels."**

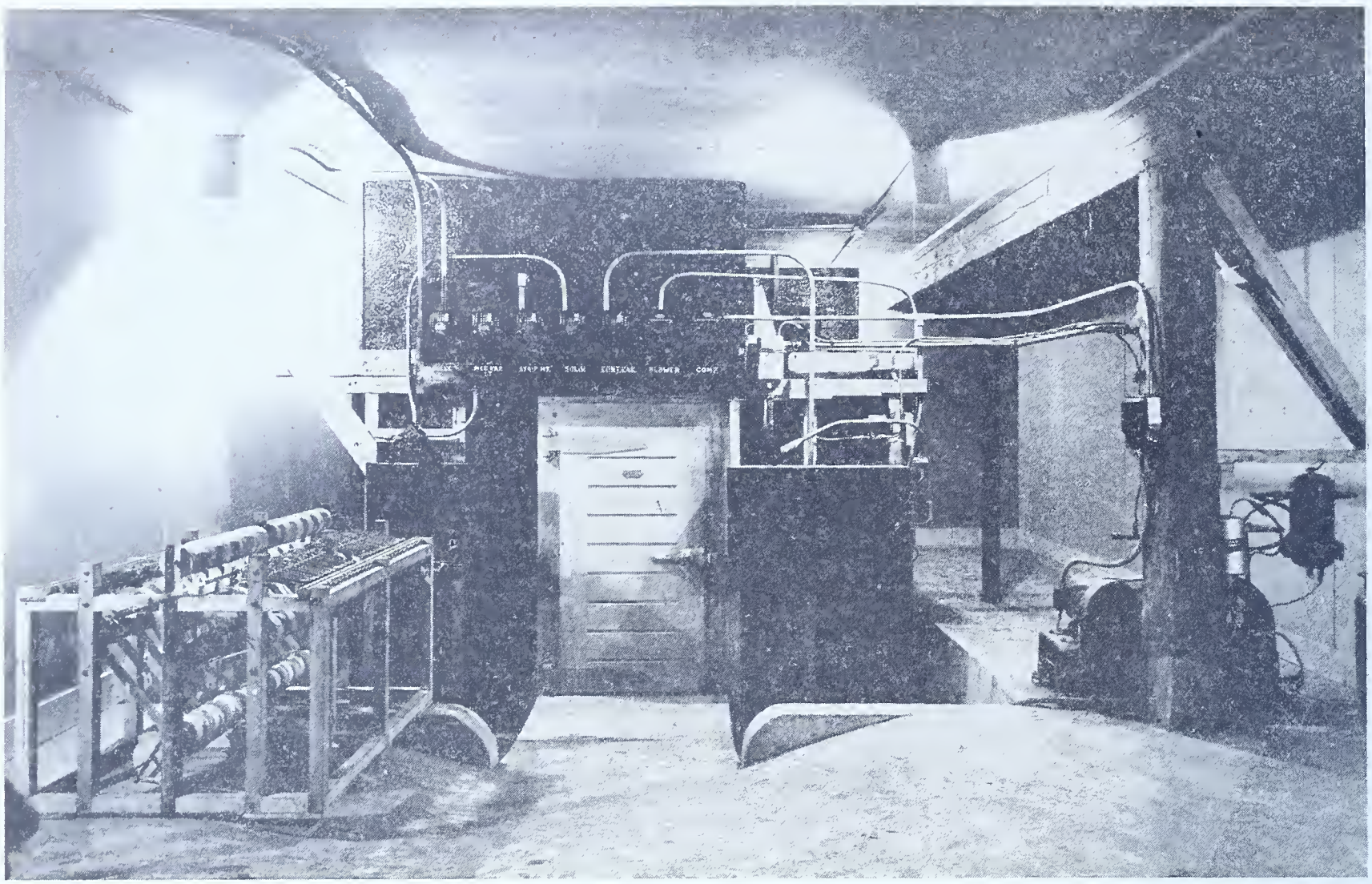


Photo by C. Gordon Krieble.

The Climactometer at the Loyalsock State Game Farm.

# Propagated Quail Versus Wild Quail as Studied Under Laboratory Conditions

By RALPH B. NESTLER* and JOHN R. LANGENBACH**

UNDER most methods of bobwhite propagation the resulting stock after liberation seemingly falls short of meeting successfully the adversities of the wild. A critical evaluation of such birds for postwar restocking programs, together with suggestions for their improvement, was made recently in this magazine by Nestler and Studholme (PA. GAME NEWS, 16 (3), June 1945). The fact was mentioned that laboratory studies on pen-reared bobwhites to ascertain the shortcomings of such stock, were being conducted by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Pennsylvania Game Commission. A report on these investigations is given in the present paper. The authors hasten to emphasize at the start that the enclosed information is considered merely indicative, and not conclusive by any means. Wild birds cannot be expected to react to stimuli in confinement as they would in the open. Any clues obtained in the laboratory are intended to serve only as guides for field investigations. *In the field*—and there only—will be found the final answer regarding the value of pen-reared quail for restocking depleted areas.

An ingenious device, called a "climoactometer" by its designer, Richard Gertsell (Res. Cir. No. 1, Pa. Game Comm., 1938), and located at the Loyalsock State Game Farm, Montoursville, Pennsylvania, was used for the studies. Gerstell planned this apparatus to measure the effects of temperature, wind, rain, and other meteorological factors upon the activity and general physiology of animals. It consists of an insulated chamber with interior dimensions of 6′ x 10′ x 56″, temperature controls with a range of —20° to + 120° F., a sprinkling system, a lighting system of ultra-violet and infra-red lamps and incandescent bulbs operated by a rheostatic dimming device, and finally an air-circulating system that can furnish various wind velocities up to 12 miles per hour through changes in motor speed and damper manipulations. Although the apparatus has definite limitations, it affords an investigator excellent opportunities for studying the reactions of animals to climatic vagaries. The fact that it simulates in only a very approximate way some extremes of normal climatic conditions, and inclines to exaggerate certain ones, should not invalidate the results of experiments discussed herein so long as both wild and pen-reared birds were subjected to the same or comparable environment. Reactions or survival of creatures under unusual or critical conditions are much more likely to be convincing than are responses under wild or average circumstances. This principle is widely recognized as applied to men in tests for military fitness.

For the studies under consideration, the chamber was floored with a 4-inch layer of sand and a loose matting of hay or straw. Small pines, corn shocks, and weeds, such as sumac and pokeweed, were used for landscaping. For the last four experiments, the chamber was partitioned longitudinally into compartments of the same size, and the shrubbery so arranged that one compartment was the counterpart of the other. The chamber (or each compartment) was furnished with an empty nail keg on its side, and a water receptacle.

Throughout each day of the studies, observations were made on the birds' movements, mostly through a window in a panel at the door. The quail were weighed at regular intervals, and the crop-contents of some were analyzed. The complete volume of notes, together with thermograph recordings and other data, is preserved in the archives of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Patuxent Research Refuge, Bowie, Maryland, and is available to anyone who may wish to review it.

## 1943 STUDIES

### *Wild vs. hardened and unhardened pen-reared quail*

In four studies conducted in 1943, there were used 18 recently captured wild quail from Maryland and Virginia, and sixty pen-

* U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
** Pennsylvania Game Commission.

*"The authors express their appreciation to Charles O. Handley, Leader of the Virginia Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Talbott E. Clarke, Executive Director of the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, and Allan T. Studholme, former Acting Chief of the Division of Propagation and Research, Pennsylvania Game Commission, for their many helpful suggestions in the preparation of this article."*

reared bobwhites, some direct from small wire-floored pens, some from large 60′ 8″ x 12′ x 5′ 3″ wire-floored hardening pens, and some hardened on the ground in 36′ x 36′ x 6′ enclosures for 10 to 17 days prior to the studies.

Until placed on experiment the wild stock were kept in 6′ x 6′ x 6′ pens on an earth floor covered with straw. Most of the time they kept themselves hidden under the litter. Such timidity was not noticed in any of the pen-reared stock. Apparently the wild quail were definitely out of place or not "at home," whereas their pen-reared cousins were "at home."

The pen-reared bobwhites hardened on the soil, had only tall weeds and a nailkeg for shelter. Once a day they were given a commercial seed mixture scattered on the ground. About a week after being released in the large enclosure some escaped through the 2″ mesh wire overhead (smaller mesh wire enclosed the sides), and disappeared from the vicinity.

The 1943 experiments in the climoactometer ran from 6 to 12 days in duration, and involved 16 to 24 birds. So far as possible an equal number of each sex was used, and only healthy-appearing birds were selected.

The diet was a mixture of 21 wild seeds, including a small percentage of the poisonous sickle senna (*Cassia tora*), and 7 cultivated seeds, 20 grams being the ration per bird. In the first two experiments, fresh feed was supplied only twice during the studies, but it soon became evident that precipitation and freezing made much of the food unavailable. Therefore for Experiments 3 and 4, the seeds were scattered on the ground daily, half of the ration in the morning and half in the afternoon.

Lights were regulated to give a normal day-and-night effect. Wind velocities of 1½ to 6 M.P.H. were used. For three of the four experiments, temperatures as low as —13° F. were obtained, with an average low daily temperature of 12° F. The highest temperature was 56° F. with the average high daily temperature at 40° F. The greatest change in temperature during any 24-hour period was 45°; the least, 11°; the average, 25°. In the fourth experiment conducted during April, higher temperatures were employed because most of the birds' store of body-fats had been depleted by that time.

Artificial rainfall in the cabinet ranged from light showers of a few minutes duration to abnormally heavy downpours that lasted as long as 7½ hours. Some precipitation took place at night up to 10:00 P. M. and in the morning as early as 3:00 A. M. as well as during the day. Freezes followed many of the rainstorms.

*Mortality and General Condition.*—Thirty-three percent of the wild birds, and twenty-six percent of the pen-reared bobwhites died on the experiments, most of them during or shortly after heavy precipitation. More than one-third of the cases had large quantities of water in the crop, lungs, and trachea, many of the crops were empty, and the feathers had a washed-out appearance. More males than females succumbed by a ratio of 1.7:1.

All the birds save one, lost weight, but the heaviest losses, averaging 40 grams per bird, occurred among the *unhardened* pen-reared stock. Hardened pen-reared quail lost 34 grams per bird; wild birds, only 8 grams per bird. One wild quail actually gained 16 grams! Statistics proved these differences to be significant. In the first half of the fourth experiment, conducted for 12 days, both wild and pen-reared birds showed a loss of 19 grams per bird. The wild stock, however, gained back seven grams per bird during the second 6-day period, whereas the pen-reared stock continued to lose weight until they howed a 27-gram loss per bird.

*Selection of Food.*—An examination of the crop contents of pen-reared quail sacrificed at the conclusion of the study, revealed that all the birds had eaten well. Of the 24 articles of food identified, the eight leading items were as follows (percent by volume): buttonweed, 23; smooth sumac, 17¼; wheat, 14; morning-glory, 9¼; barley, 7½; yellow corn, 5¼; giant ragweel, 5; and the poisonous sickle senna, 3½. Sumac was found in 100 percent of the crops, whereas corn was in less than one-fourth. Sixty-four percent of the stomachs contained sickle senna. It was quite evident that the pen-reared stock, although accustomed to a mash of commercial feedstuffs made readily available at all times in a feeder, had become adjusted to seeking and utilizing wild seeds scattered on the ground, but seemed to show a lack of discrimination by their selection of sumac and sickle senna.

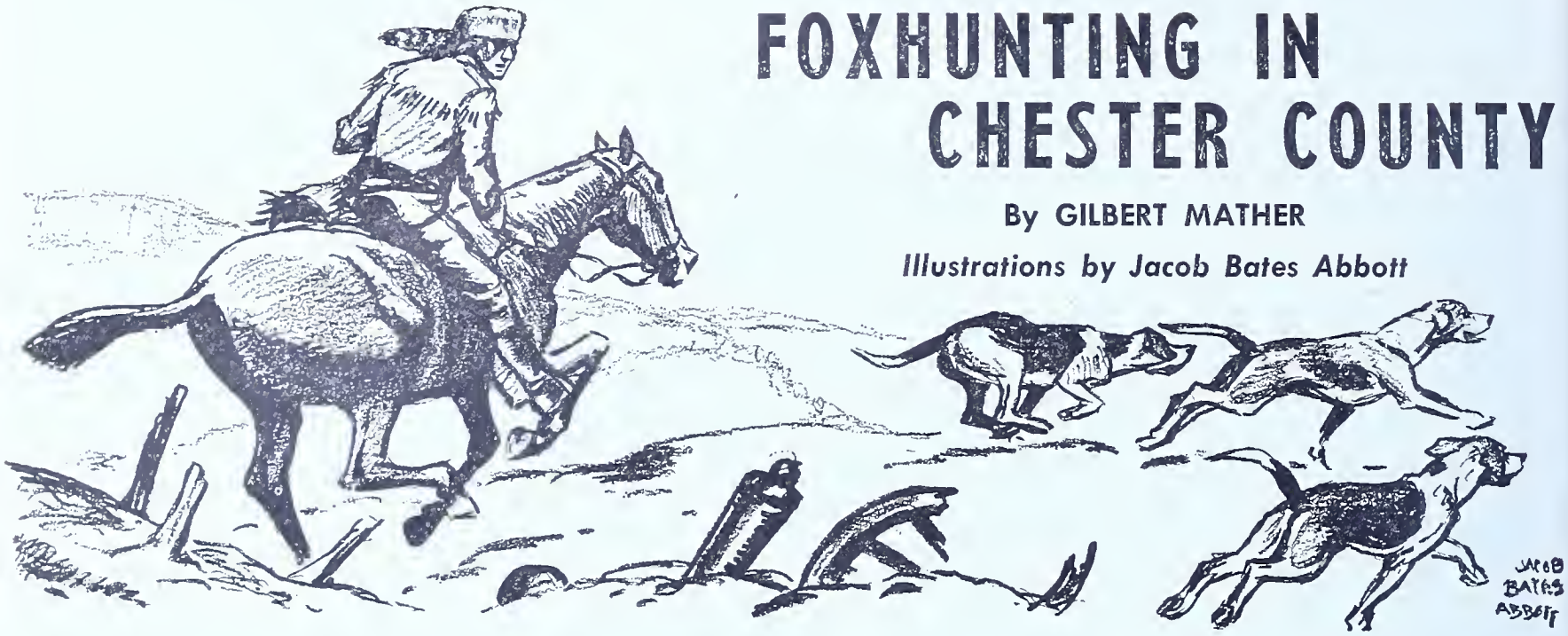
In a comparison of the crop contents of 12 pen-reared and 6 wild quail that died on experiment, it was found that smooth sumac fruits held a prominent place in the last meal of both classes of birds, but 23½ percent composed the crop-contents of the former whereas 13¼ percent composed the crop-contents of the latter. A trace of the poisonous sickle senna was found in one wild bird, whereas it formed 6 percent of the diet of half of the pen-reared quail.

*Conduct of Birds*—Cold as severe as 12° below zero did not seem to trouble either pen-reared or wild birds. Their famous huddle, namely, the formation of a circle with the birds' tails to the center and heads to the periphery, provided an efficient heating plant. When the temperature was subzero, the birds tucked their heads under their wings. If the cold persisted throughout the day, the quail held the huddle intact while only one or two ventured forth at a time to eat. The feeding birds would return quickly, jump on top the huddle, and "elbow" their way to the ground while several others were preparing to leave the warmth.

Rain was feared by the birds more than severe cold. Sometimes the quail cried with alarm during an entire storm. Even the

*(Continued on page 22)*

Photo by W. Bryant Tyrell.
Male bobwhite incubating nest full of eggs.




# FOXHUNTING IN CHESTER COUNTY

**By GILBERT MATHER**

***Illustrations by Jacob Bates Abbott***

THE sport of foxhunting has been carried on regularly and continuously in Chester County, Pennsylvania, since well before the Revolution, and the customs and traditions of this old sport are deeply rooted in the soil of the county.

Most of us are familiar with the foxhunt described so well by the Chester County author, Bayard Taylor, in "THE STORY OF KENNETT", a novel dealing with a period so shortly after the Revolution that its hero, Gilbert Potter, while riding across the Brandywine at Chadds Ford, took note of the debris of the battle still to be seen on the creek banks.

The Chester County poet, James Bowen Everhart, in his poem "THE FOX CHASE", published in 1874, gives a beautiful description of a run over the rolling hills that flank the Brandywine. Its opening stanza:

"Wide o'er the braes of Birmingham—
All rife with song and sweet with balm,
Where granges trim, with rolling soil,
Are fair to view and kind to toil—
There rose as fresh and gay a morn,
As ever answered hunter's horn."

George Washington not only stood first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen, but also stood first among the foxhunters of his time. His diary indeed is largely a foxhunting diary, as it contains day by day accounts of his days in the field with his pack of foxhounds at Mount Vernon, with detailed notes of the performance of individual hounds, the number of foxes found, whether red or gray, and the names of friends who enjoyed the sport with him. It has even been stated on good authority that perhaps the most potent reason which caused Washington to refuse a third term as President was his determination to have a few more seasons of foxhunting in Virginia while still physically able to enjoy the sport. Thus foxhunting may have been primarily responsible for the establishment of the "no third term" tradition.

But to cast back to Chester County—there is no record that George Washington ever rode to hounds in Chester County, but during the Battle of the Brandywine he was called upon to make a ride there in which his experience and skill as a cross-country rider must have stood him in good stead. History does record that, on September 11, 1777, Squire Thomas Cheyney, a Chester County foxhunter, mounted on a good gray mare, rode full speed from the vicinity of the forks of the Brandywine to Chadds Ford to warn Washington that a British and Hessian column had crossed the Brandywine above the forks and was approaching the Continental Army's right flank from the North. When, after considerable difficulty, Squire Cheyney succeeded in delivering this news to Washington in person, the General ordered him to lead the way to the point toward which the enemy column was marching. According to contemporary accounts, the Squire rode a line straight across country to Birmingham, taking a number of big snake fences on the way with Washington, Lafayette and other staff officers following his lead at, we hope, "a safe hunting distance"!

General Washington arrived in time to direct the formation of the brigades of Generals Sullivan, Stirling and Stephens in a position to stand off the attacks of Lord Cornwallis's detachment long enough to enable the Continental Army to make good its retreat to Chester, thus averting a disaster that might well have ended the War of Independence there and then.

When Lafayette was about to sail for home after the War of Independence had been won, he asked Washington what he might send him as a gift from France. Washington told him that he would like nothing so much as some French hounds as he had heard so much about their fine voice and keen nose. Upon his return Lafayette shipped seven French hounds to George Washington in Virginia. They arrived at Mount Vernon via New York on August 24, 1785, and were hunted the following November. Their voices are described as being "like the bells of Moscow." As a result of this importation, many of our present day American foxhounds show definite traces of French hound ancestry.

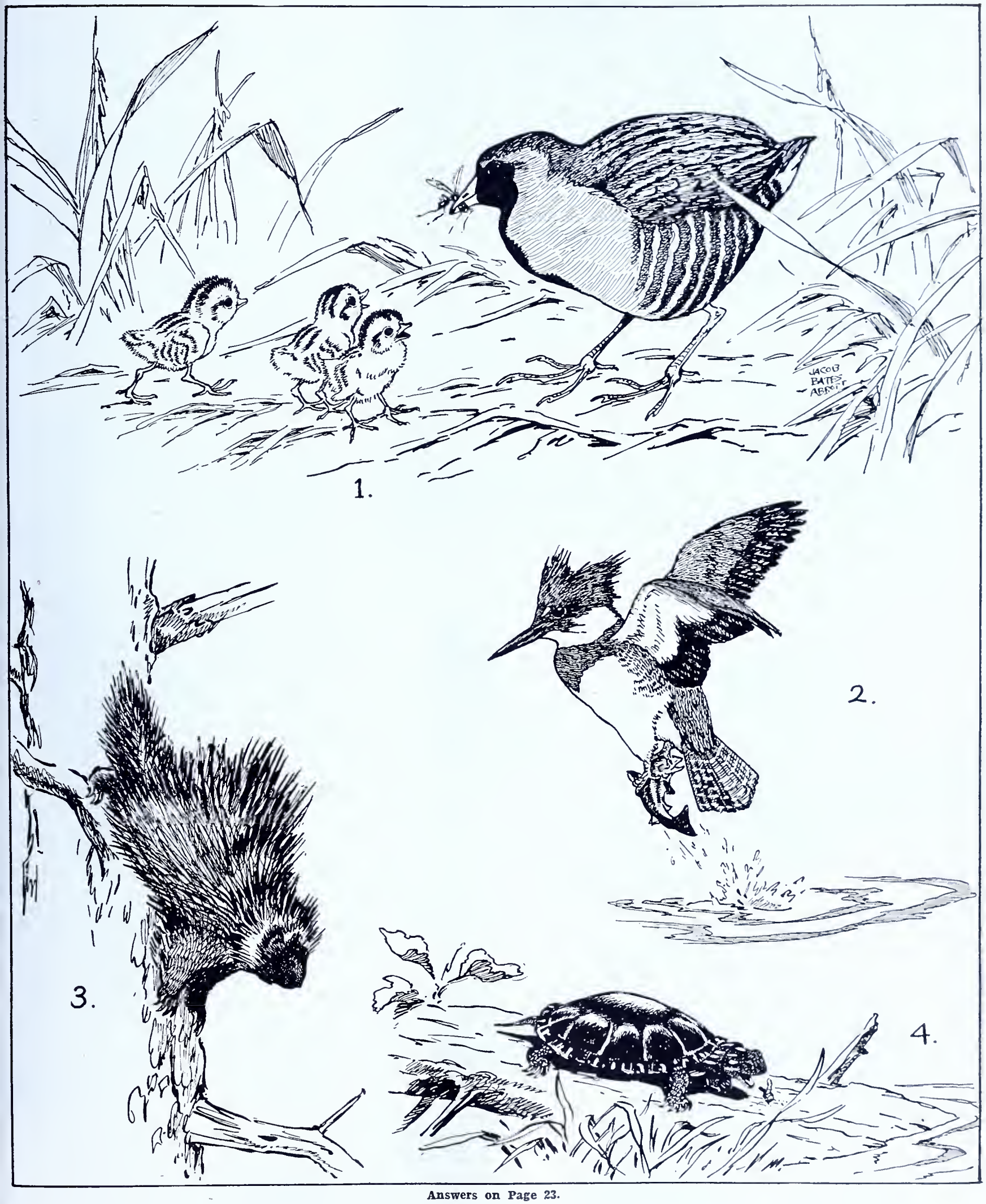
To the ear of a foxhunter no sound compares in melody with that of a pack of foxhounds in full cry, and the wooded hills of Chester County echo to that sound today as they did in years gone by. It is a sound equally sweet to the ears of the "hill-topper" who is content to enjoy the sport from some point of vantage as it is to the "thruster" whose aim is to keep in close contact with the pack, be the obstacles what they may.

Most of Chester County is regularly hunted throughout the season by numerous packs of foxhounds. Some of these packs are owned by individual land-owners, some by foxhunting farmers and others by foxhunting clubs, but all are conducted with the same purpose—that of furnishing sport to friends and neighbors.

The hunt described in "THE STORY OF KENNETT" was a "drop hunt," held at a tavern, and was in the nature of a special event. A fox that had been found by hounds on some previous day and run to earth had been dug out, and was released for the hunt, being given a certain length

*(Continued on page 25)*

# WELL, WHAT'S WRONG?




Answers on Page 23.

# THE BEAVER

By CAROLINE A. HEPPENSTALL

*We take pleasure in introducing, beginning with this issue, Miss Caroline A. Heppenstall, Assistant Curator of Mammalogy of the Carnegie Museum, who has graciously agreed to contribute a short article on some mammal each month. Later, when the stress of other duties permit the Curator, Kenneth A. Doutt, plans to furnish other interesting stories about our animal friends. For next month Miss Heppenstall has written a delightfully interesting article on bats, wherein many of the fallacies concerning these mammals are discounted.*

THE United States and Canada have laid their foundations on a blanket of beaver pelts. For centuries the beaver pelt has been the standard of valuation in barter and exchange, and its economic importance to the United States and Canada can hardly be reckoned. It was in search of the beaver that pioneer trappers and fur companies pushed their way across an unchartered continent and blazed the way for settlers who would found a nation. To this day the Hudson Bay Company speaks of its blankets as "Point" blankets, which refers not to the value of the blanket, but rather to the size. In the days when the beaver was the standard of trade, the larger the blanket the more beaver pelts required to purchase it. Thus, a two "point" blanket required two pelts for purchase, and a larger blanket required three points, etc. The popularity of felt hats led to a relentless pursuit of the beaver. The trade found that beaver fur made excellent felting material, and if silk had not suddenly taken the place of felt in the hatter's trade the beaver might have become extinct. When Pittsburgh was just a trading post at the junction of two rivers, Indians brought in beaver skins to trade for any item they desired to obtain from the white men.

The beaver, known to science as *Castor canadensis,* is familiar to all those who hunt and trap, as well as to milady of fashion who wears him for decorative reasons. He is the largest of all North American rodents, and sometimes attains a weight of 70 pounds. From fall to spring he feeds on bark, preferably that of the aspen. Maples, willows, alders, apple, birch and others are eaten too, but conifers are seldom touched. In the summer this diet is changed, and pond lilies, bur reed, duckweed, pondweeds, algae, as well as clover, alfalfa and various herbaceous plants form the bill of fare. Because of his large size he has only one serious enemy—man. It is thought that the beaver mates for life, breeding during mid-winter, probably in late January or February, and giving birth to young in April or May. The young are called "kits," and while there may be from one to six, the usual number is either three or four. They are very well developed at birth, having bodies covered with fur and open eyes, but they stay in the lodge for about a month before leaving to swim and take solid food. It is assumed that the young stay with their parents for a year or two. A colony usually consists of a pair of adults and their young of the present and preceding years. The two-year-olds are driven out, or leave of their own accord in the spring to form colonies of their own.

Much has been written of the sagacity, industry and engineering ability of the beaver, and "busy as a beaver" has become a common expression in our language. Their dams are remarkable accomplishments, designed to create deep ponds where a substantial food supply for the winter may be accumulated without danger of being frozen in. The lodges, too are of considerable interest. They are formed by building a small island, from the pond bottom, with large branches or trunks of saplings; inside there is plenty of room for a dry sleeping platform and a sort of table for feeding purposes. Occasionally the beavers dig into the stream bank, and build a lodge there rather than creating an island for the purpose. In some localities the beavers build canals, when the food supply or construction material are no longer readily available, and through these canals branches are transported either to the lodge or food pile. Many a lush meadow owes its lushness to the engineering feats performed by this mammalian soil conservationist. Man may condemn the beaver for cutting his trees, damming his streams and cutting canals through his fields, but he should never forget the fine work he has done in bringing fertility to fields which would have been barren. His dams store up silt, keeping the streams below the dam clear and fresh, and his canals have irrigated many a dry field. So-called "beaver meadows" have provided some of the richest farming soil in the country.

On any list of furbearing animals the beaver is entitled to an extremely high priority, and in a manner becoming to its value, it has been hunted, persecuted and exterminated over most of its former range. When white man first settled in what is now the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania the beaver was common "wherever suitable watercourses permitted the construction of dams and lodges," but at the turn of the nineteenth century it was all but gone from the State. Now, after years of protection and stocking, it has increased to the point where trapping in certain localities is again permitted, and the beaver is once more bringing revenue to the trappers of our State. The modern attitude of conservation will probably insure this revenue for many years to come, and this big rodent will once again be seen where for so many years it was conspicuous by its absence.

Here at the Carnegie Museum it has been my fortune to show a great many feminine visitors around the Laboratory of Mammalogy. When the trays of beaver skins are displayed the inevitable remark is, "Oh, but that's not the beaver we wear for coats, is it?" Looking at an unplucked beaver one would never suspect that underneath the long guard hairs, shaggy and rather coarse, is a silky, fine undercoat, durable and soft, and fit to "move in any society." It is always fun to push aside the guard hairs and show this lovely fur to my amazed, and often incredulous, visitors, who usually leave the office muttering to themselves, "I had no idea that that was what a beaver in the rough looked like!"

# IS THE PEN MIGHTIER?

•

*Editor's Note—Despite all the efforts on the part of the Game Commission, the sportsmen, school children and others to encourage safer hunting during the past season the number of accidents increased alarmingly. Nearly 50% of the fatal accidents were self inflicted; the others were almost too tragic to mention but the reasons for them will be published in a forthcoming issue. Making hunting safer is every gunner's business, and a serious business. We can all shrug when we hear about an accident and say "the crazy fool, etc.," but that isn't going to keep us from being the next victim of our own or someone else's carelessness. Let's all of us play it safe always.*

**Hon. John M. Phillips, Pittsburgh, pioneer game conservationist in Pennsylvania, took the photo of the above monument to Paul W. McCool in Game Refuge No. 2, Clearfield County, while looking over the area with Mr. C. Brewster of the former U. S. Biological Survey on August 10, 1912. From left to right are Refuge Keeper Klein, Game Protector H. E. Hummelbaugh, Frank Harris and Mr. Brewster.**

THIS year, as last, the Governor designated a week during October as Hunt Safely Week. During this time the Game Commission urged sportsmen's organizations to conduct essay contests in the schools or any other program that would give the safety campaign some publicity and furnished them with thousands of safety placards for that purpose. Lectures and motion pictures on safe shooting also were provided.

We do not know at present how many took part in the project. A recent letter to the 800 clubs asking them to tell us what they did brought a number of letters from various clubs, and we hope to hear favorably from more of them soon. One of these letters, from the Clinton County Fish and Game Association, enclosed several winning essays from the contest sponsored by the association in the Lock Haven schools. That association awarded a first prize of $10.00; 2nd of $5.00; and 3rd of $2.50 for both boys and girls.

---

## Rosemary Gardner*

Yes, there are many that will go tramping off to the woods, the morning of November 1, 1945, to hunt turkey, rabbit, and other small game, but some may not come tramping back, as others will, due to carelessness on the part of a thoughtless person carrying a gun.

Every hunter should value his fellow man's life and his own enough to stop, think, and be sure before he pulls the trigger. Even if it would mean losing a deer or turkey, he still has the story about the big one that got away. Better that, than to shoot and find you had killed or wounded a human being.

Many are returning home now—soldiers, sailors, marines, even Wacs and Waves who are waiting and looking forward to a hunting trip. We must make the woods safe for them, so that they, returning from years of fighting or serving their country, may relax in the beautiful forests, not only in Pennsylvania, but in the whole United States.

Think what it would mean to come safely through years of active duty only to be killed or crippled for life by one hunter's recklessness.

That is why every hunter should abide by the laws made by the Pennsylvania Game Commission; hunt safely, surely and with accuracy against mistakes which might prove serious or fatal.

In this way, the increasing number of accidents which occur each year will be prevented, and more people may go hunting assured of their safety.

Keep it fun—not fatal!

---

* Age 14, 9th grade, Lock Haven Jr. High School.

## Martha Mae Long*

"Now please be careful," I heard as I went out the door on the first day of hunting season.

"Yes, yes! Of course I'll be careful," I replied without taking serious thought about the matter.

My! How often I'd been told those very same words before! After all, I've had considerable hunting experience and have not had any accidents. Why do they always keep telling me to be careful?

Once out in the woods I forgot all about that warning in my thrill of hunting. There! Up popped a rabbit. Bang! Got 'im! In my haste I did not even think about being careful. I did not remember those signs which I had seen, such as: "Is it game? Be sure you know before you shoot!" and, "Look, before you shoot!"

Many hunters in their thrill of shooting game are not as careful as they should be. There have been many accidents through carelessness. We do not think seriously enough of the dangers connected with loaded guns and the necessity of being sure of our target and careful aiming.

Even if we've never had any serious accidents we should endeavor to be extremely careful. Often hunters have taken chances and have found, when it is too late, that they should have used more caution.

Everyone needs to do some serious thinking on this matter of hunting safely. Let us make this a year of fewer accidents in hunting than ever before.

---

* Age 18, Senior Class, Mill Hall High School.

## Patricia Eberhart*

As hunting is a sport that appeals to many men of all ages, it is very necessary that it

*(Continued on page 24)*

# THE 20TH ANNUAL CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

## State Division of the Izaak Walton League of America

**Officers and Directors State Division Izaak Walton League. Bottom row—left to right: John P. Deck, President Emeritus, Reading; T. E. Williamson, District Chairman, Oil City; Howard Shilling, President, Huntingdon; E. M. Swanger, Secretary, Lebanon; G. F. McConnell, Treasurer, Stewartstown. Second Row—left to right: Directors A. J. Bordner, Lebanon; Frank Rutledge, Pittsburgh; Frank Thomas, Philadelphia; Oscar Becker, Reading; J. H. Coffman, York and C. F. Glessner, Harrisburg.**

THE 20th Annual Conservation Conference of the Pennsylvania Division of the Izaak Walton League of America held at Harrisburg on October 27 and 28 was truly symbolic of the principles and objectives of this far sighted organization, and State President Howard Shilling, of Huntingdon, struck the keynote of the gathering when he called for open hearts and receptive minds to the messages of conservation and urged upon returning home the enthusiasm engendered by the meeting should be translated into action.

The principal guest of the conference was none other than Paul Clement, National President of the League who delivered an inspiring address. Referring to the problems of the League, and the most effective method of getting our conservation program across to the general public, President Clement gave the following illustration: "A colored man made what may be considered as the shortest, most concise prayer on record, 'O God,' he said, 'give the world common sense, beginning with me.' The application of this principle would go far towards solving the problems of our country and of the world," said Mr. Clement. He stressed the fact that the League is not a small minority pressure group, but that it represented the vast majority of inarticulate Americans. "This war," said Mr. Clement, "has produced no outstanding musical hits comparable to those which stirred the pulse and imagination of Americans in World War I. It was not, in fact, a 'singing War'; the misery and suffering of our soldiers was too real and intense a thing to sing about; nevertheless, Mr. Clement felt that the thoughts and wishes of returning servicemen might be expressed in the current song, 'Give me land, lot of land, 'neath the starry skies above.' Returning servicemen are entitled to return to a land of plenty, and it is the League's duty and obligation to assure them of such a land. "Then, too," said Mr. Clement, "the best cure yet found for P. N. (Psycho-Neurotic) cases is a close, intimate relationship with nature. The Doctors who are most successful in treating cases of nervous disorders are those prescribed a generous amount of outdoor activity."

The President deplored the futility of large dams, such as are created by Valley Authorities. As an example, he mentioned one such dam which received as much as 6,000,000 pounds of silt a year—silt which will finally fill the entire river bed, thus destroying its usefulness either for irrigation projects or for electrical power. He felt that the creation of numerous small dams in the smaller tributaries of our large rivers would *prevent* floods, rather than control them, and would also serve a useful purpose in raising the underground water table.

"The true worth of any national agency can be accurately determined by the amount of money appropriated for their activities. The less money they have available, the more important is the work they are attempting to do. Take the Soil Conservation Service as an example. Its work is unquestionably of the utmost importance, yet its appropriations are so low as to seriously handicap its efficiency, while at the same time many Federal Bureaus, whose worth is doubtful, are receiving large grants to further their pet schemes.

Mr. Clement urged the Pennsylvania Division to support whole-heartedly National Legislative measures tending to curb pollution, and referred specifically to the Mundt-Meyers Bills. He congratulated the Division for the splendid work which had been done in support of Pennsylvania's Pure Stream Bill, and urged that we take the wider viewpoint by giving equal support to Federal conservation measures.

Dr. Edward H. Graham, Chief, Biology Division, United States Soil Conservation Service also addressed the meeting. He referred to the feeling of contentment and satisfaction we all feel upon the completion of an excellent meal, but pointed out that, "While our stomachs may be full, we may not actually be well fed, because of the lack of proper nutritive values. Such values can come only from good, fertile soil," said Dr. Graham, "and good fertile soil is possible in this country only by following scientific practices of soil conservation." Following a brief introduction, Dr. Graham illustrated, by means of color slides, various soil conservation practices designed to rebuild our depleted soil. He mentioned that our own state of Pennsylvania was somewhat backward in this respect, and urged the League's support in an effort to convince the general public of the desirability of soil conservation.

National Executive Director Kenneth A. Reid spoke briefly on the aims and ideals of the League. He particularly urged that Resolutions presented to Conventions should be well prepared, should be presented in ample time for careful consideration, and should stress quality rather than quantity. He urged the League's support for a 50c increase in the Fishing License in Pennsylvania, the money raised by such means to be used to purchase and maintain public fishing waters. Referring to the Resolution regarding the investigation of the functions of the Game and Fish Commissions, Mr. Reid felt that the Fish Commission's functions could be improved materially if the set-up for the Fish Commission were the same as that now enjoyed by the Game Commission. Mr. Reid also urged support of the League for the use of highway fills as dam-breasts, and mentioned several which are now in practical use throughout the country.

Mr. J. L. Hoffert, Secretary of the Sanitary Water Board discussed stream pollution, pointing out "The test of the people's real sincerity in their desire to clean up the streams of Pennsylvania is their willingness to pay the bill. The success or failure of the present administration's campaign to eliminate pollution from our waters will depend

**"Hunting trophies? Nope, got 'em all motoring!"**

upon the work of such organizations as the League, in their effort to convince the taxpayers of the necessity and value of such a program. Above all else, the League should be well informed—it should criticize only when facts are known and should recognize some of the problems which confront the Board in its present efforts to abate pollution." Thus Mr. Hoffert laid squarely before our organization a task which must be performed: The education of the general public to the necessity for the elimination of stream pollution.

In giving a brief history of pollution in this State, Mr. Hoffert mentioned the depression as being one of the outstanding reasons for the Sanitary Water Board's inability to function more efficiently under the old pollution law of 1937. Now, with the Brunner Bill in effect, with more money available, and with an administration headed by sincere Conservationists such as Governor Martin and Attorney-General Duff, the way ahead is much brighter in outlook than ever before. There are, of course, several "tough spots" ahead, explained Mr. Hoffert, notably in lack of well-trained personnel on the Board itself, and a vast accumulation of individual pollutents requiring attention. Mr. Hoffert reported that orders were sent to 350 municipalities and 150 industries to formulate plans to abate pollution by sewage or industrial waste. In the last 3 months, 4 hearings were held, and 1 trip was taken by the Board in an effort to investigate thoroughly pollution matters throughout the State. Mr. Hoffert mentioned House Bill No. 3972, introduced by Representative Bailey, providing for an exemption of the cost of the erection of industrial disposal and treatment works on income tax computations, and urged the League to sell such treatment works to industry now. He congratulated the League upon the work which it had done in the past, and urged even greater efforts in the future to make their fight for clean streams in Pennsylvania successful.

William E. Montgomery, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Forests and Waters spoke on the subject of "community forests," claiming they "go back in history many years, but their practical application is as important today as ever." He mentioned many of the advantages resulting from the establishment of community forests and said that there are now 95 such community-owned forests in Pennsylvania with a total acreage of 61,000. He mentioned one instance where a forest of 112 acres, valued at $5,800, produced a net yearly income of $6,000, to say nothing of the obvious advantages of such forests, as water sheds, game refuges, etc. He urged the support of the League in the establishment of such community forests, and promised the aid of the Department of Forests and Waters whenever such aid would be helpful.

Seth Gordon, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Game Commission gave a brief history of the League in Pennsylvania, starting from its inception in 1925, and mentioning its problems and adversities up to the present time. He urged that returning servicemen be enlisted in the work of the League, inasmuch as they had been fighting for the same things for which the League stands. In commenting upon the functions of the Game Commission, Mr. Gordon stressed the fact that good housekeeping in the Commission made it possible to look forward to a post-war era in which from $1,500,000 to $5,000,000 will be spent for improving hunting conditions in the State. Mr. Gordon credited the revolving fund with making it possible for the Commission to now own more than 815,000 acres of hunting territory, open to the general public for recreational purposes. Referring to the Goodwin Committee to investigate the functions of the Game Commission and Fish Commission, Mr. Gordon welcomed this investigation, feeling that it would serve to bring before the public many of the worthwhile activities of the Game Commission, which normally are given no publicity. In closing, Mr. Gordon made the pertinent statement that people will enjoy the benefits of a Conservation program to the exact extent to which they are willing to support it.

Committee Reports

E. M. Swanger, Secretary-Treasurer, reported a balance of $73.30 in the Treasury.

Mr. J. Harold Coffman, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, and also of the Legislative Committee, reported on the progress made during the year. His report indicated

*(Continued on page 26)*

Photo courtesy Lewisburg News Bureau.

**Lewisburg, Pa.—Contending for championship honors as the best hunter of wild turkeys in Pennsylvania, perhaps in the nation, Harold "Dutch" Leiser, well known Lewisburg sportsman, offers as evidence of his Nimrodial ability factual evidence that he has shot his turkey every year for the past 20 consecutive seasons. Dutch bagged his 20th bird this year on his 40th birthday, in itself something of a record for it indicates that half of his life (at least that part measured by the small game season), Dutch has been on the hunt for the clusive bronze bird whose whereabouts are becoming more difficult to find with each passing year.**

**Dutch, who is seen on the right of his brother-in-law, Ray Decker, of Centre Hall, another well known sportsman, proudly displays in the accompanying photograph his most recent kill, a 16¾-pound bird shot in White Deer Hole Valley in Union county. Seventeen of Dutch's turkeys were killed in Union county, the remaining three being trophies of hunting forays in Centre county. Largest bird ever to go down before the trusty shotgun of the title claimant was a bronze beauty which dressed 24 pounds and three ounces. Smallest of the 20 birds dressed 10 pounds.**

# PREDATOR PROBLEM RAPIDLY BEING CONTROLLED

The $4.00 bounty which was placed on the red fox last July is causing a substantial increase in fox bounty claims.

Since 1929 there has been no state-wide bounty on the red fox. In 1940, however, bounties were paid for red foxes exterminated in certain northern and northwestern counties in Pennsylvania. This payment continued until 1942. From that time, until last July when the state-wide bounty was resumed, the red fox went scot free.

Many hunters and trappers had gone to war. Others had accepted confining war jobs in nearby cities. They had no time to concern themselves about the fox population.

So Red Reynard lived happily, produced little ones who also lived happily, and his tribe increased to the extent that last July the Game Commission placed the $4.00 bounty on their hides.

The increase in foxes has not been confined to Pennsylvania alone. The whole northeastern area, from Georgia north and from the Dakotas east, is heavily populated by these furry predators.

Although this condition has attracted much attention and caused some alarm, the main reason for the increase in the fox kill in Pennsylvania has been the $4.00 bounty on the red fox.

Another factor influencing bounty claims is the end of the war. More trappers are running trap-lines now that they have been discharged from the armed service or relieved from full-time war jobs.

It looks as though the predator problem in Pennsylvania is pretty well under control.

Photo by Leo A. Luttringer, Jr.
**Harold Plasterer, left, Supervising Clerk, Division of Law Enforcement, and Hugh H. Groninger, Game Protector special assignment, looking over two fox claims submitted for bounty recently.**

# Highlights of Commission Meeting January 10

## Ross L. Leffler Re-elected President; Robert Lamberton, Vice-President

The Pennsylvania Game Commission in regular annual session at its offices in Harrisburg on January 10, re-elected Ross L. Leffler, Pittsburgh, President; Robert Lamberton, Franklin, Vice-President; and Seth Gordon, Secretary.

The Commission also studied progress reports from its various administrative units; approved the purchase of 21 tracts of game lands, totaling 4,567.6 acres; approved the purchase of a new game farm comprising more than 551 acres in Rockdale Township, Crawford County, three miles east of Cambridge Springs, which will enable the Commission to double its ringneck pheasant capacity in Western Pennsylvania.

The Commission reviewed preliminary estimates of the game kill for the past season as submitted by field officers; approved the annual cutting of 5% of the timber on State Game Lands to assure more food and cover for wildlife; planned to boost the distribution of day-old pheasant chicks to approximately 100,000 next spring; revoked the hunting privileges of 156 persons for violations of the game laws; and effective July 1, 1946, increased the subscription fee for its monthly publication, the PENNSYLVANIA GAME NEWS, from 50c a year to $1.00 a year; $1.50 for two years; and $2.00 for three years, for everyone, residents and non-residents, with a special 50c rate for sportsmen's organizations that desire to include it as a part of their membership fee.

The estimated figures on the game kill, based on the knowledge of field officers and a cross-section poll of the hunters, is as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Rabbits | 1,428,683 |
| Squirrels | 720,866 |
| Ringneck Pheasants | 293,917 |
| Ruffed Grouse | 46,412 |
| Quail | 12,014 |
| Woodcocks | 24,937 |
| Rails, Gallinules and Coots | 8,165 |
| Woodchucks | 156,737 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Wild Turkeys | 1,716 |
| Raccoons | 73,565 |
| Hungarian Partridges | 179 |
| Wild Ducks and Geese | 72,783 |
| Doves | 3,334 |
| Grackels (Blackbirds) | 33,584 |

Big game-kill reports, based on actual tabulation of those received prior to January 10, account for 366 bears, and 23,470 antlered and 1,030 antlerless deer, the latter having been taken from specified areas in southeastern Pennsylvania. Considerable numbers of these reports are arriving by mail daily, and revised figures will be released later including an estimate on the bag of Snowshoe Hares, for which a special season was held after the close of deer hunting.

President Leffler deplored the alarming increase in the number of hunting accidents during the past season, a preliminary report of which included 35 fatal mishaps and 231 non-fatal, and said that more drastic methods of making hunters more safety conscious will have to be devised if gunners continue to disregard their own or the other fellow's safety while afield. He said the accident figures are subject to change, as Game Protectors' reports covering 57 additional ones are now in the course of investigation. If it developes that these are actual hunting accidents the final figures will naturally be higher.

EDITOR'S NOTE: A complete digest of the transactions of the meeting will appear in next month's issue.

## RABBIT TRAPPERS WANTED

Game Protectors in all sections of Pennsylvania are now engaged in trapping rabbits from restricted areas not open to shooting, and transferring them to areas open to hunting. Weather conditions, with light snow on the ground in most sections, are ideal for this work. State officers are being ably assisted by sportsmen, boy scouts, and other youth groups, including Future Farmers of America.

Now is the time to remove troublesome rabbits from garden areas, so they will not interfere with vegetable production when spring and summer again roll around. Persons interested in trapping rabbits, for which the Commission pays 50 cents each, should apply to their local Game Protector. He may not yet have an agent in your community.

More than 40,000 rabbits were trapped and transferred last winter throughout the State, and with full cooperation from the public, this figure can be increased this winter.

## LUCKY HUNTERS

George Sprowl, Jr., of New Granada, killed an 18 pound turkey gobbler with a ten-inch beard on November 3.

Miles Henderson of Neffs Mills bagged a 22-pound turkey gobbler in the Shavers Creek region on the second day of turkey season. This King Gobbler had an 11-inch beard and a foot which could belong to none other than the kind of Shavers Creek turkeydom.

Photo by W. L. R. Drake.

**Two Centre County trappers with the fox catch they presented for bounty at the offices of the Game Commission recently.**

## PRELIMINARY REPORT OF HUNTING ACCIDENTS

| *Classification of Seasons* | *Fatal* | *Non-Fatal* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Small Game | 18 | 187 | 205 |
| Big Game | 9 | 24 | 33 |
| | 27 | 211 | 238 |
| Woodchuck Season | 3 | 10 | 13 |
| Pre Season (exclusive of Woodchucks) | 3 | 8 | 11 |
| Post Season | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Sub-Total | 6 | 19 | 25 |
| Totals for Year | 33 | 230 | 263* |
| Totals for 1944 | 23 | 209 | 232 |

* SPECIAL NOTE—If upon receipt of reports covering the 63 accidents reported by Game Protectors (for which this office has not received reports) it develops that they are all actual hunting accidents. The above total will be increased to 326, 35 being fatal.

**Large Coyote killed about 15 miles from Renovo, Clinton County, by D. F. Nissley Felty, right, R. No. 2, Harrisburg. It weighed 33 lbs. and measured 5 feet from nose to tail. His companion is Charles T. Lenker, Jr., Harrisburg, R. D. 3.**

"In this division we had an army of bear hunters and I must say they were real sportsmen. We had no accidents and no cubs killed to the best of my knowledge.

"The first two days of the season was the only time the men had a chance to hunt as the third day the weather became terrible and continued right through.

"The bear kill was not heavy as I felt it would be. I believe a good number of bears had vacated and gone over into Cameron County where they could find better food. The area where the bears had been a few weeks before is wild cherry and beech and as there were no beechnuts and the wild cherries were cleaned up, the bears just had to move to better feeding grounds."—Game Protector Claude B. Kelsey, Port Allegany, November 1945.

---

"Here is one for the book. Two different boys hunting in Greene County in different localities state they each shot a squirrel. They saw it was dead and did not go to pick it up right away. That is the custom of most squirrel hunters but a mistake in these cases for the next thing they saw a fox

making away with the squirrel in its mouth. I would say the foxes are pretty bold or pretty hungry. One of the boys wondered if it might not be safer to climb a tree while sitting in the woods watching for squirrels for fear a fox might try to bite off a leg or arm."—Game Protector John Blair, Waynesburg, November 1945.

"Small game in general was rather scarce throughout this section this season. Rabbits were found in the old unmowed fields of which there were many acres this year. On account of so much rainy weather, the farmers were unable to harvest anywhere near all of the usual hay crop and the rabbits were sitting in these fields more than in the brake and briar patches. Squirrels were scarce in this section because there was very little natural food for them. The last frosts killed nearly all the blossoms on the food-producing trees and shrubs. Very few ringnecks were killed in this section this season."—Game Protector Maynard R. Miller, Honesdale, November 1945.

---

"We just passed through a funny small game season. Pheasants were plentiful on the first day and there were a lot of them killed. If there were any left, they certainly knew how to hide, because I only learned of a few being killed since the first day.

"Rabbits were fairly plentiful in spots. Some hunters could find them almost any day they were out, while other hunters found them very scarce.

"Squirrels seemed to be on the move. About the middle of the season there were lots of squirrels along the mountains, and some of the creek bottoms were full of them early in the month. I believe the squirrel kill was good.

"A few coveys of quail were seen but most hunters did not shoot at them. I do not know of any grouse being killed. Some were seen but it was when the mountains were dry and they flushed wild.

"There should be plenty of food for all game until the deep snow makes it inaccessible."—Game Protector Leo E. Bushman, Gettysburg, November 1945.

---

"This has been a season of disappointments to everybody. There was not much game killed and not many hunters afield. Some days not over a dozen shots were heard.

"The first two days of the bear season there were a lot of men in the bear sections of my district, but the last two days the weather was bad, and not so many hunters were afield. Seven bears were killed in my district."—Game Protector Thomas A. Mosier, Bellefonte, November 1945.

"Small game hunters were very noticeable by their absence. Other than turkeys the hunting for small game was practically nil. Our turkey hunting was quite good considering the nesting season was wet and cool and the hatch was small. Practically all turkeys killed were old birds.

"The bear kill was medium with about twice as many killed and at least five times as many bear hunters as last year."—Game Protector Vern A. VanOrder, Renovo, November 1945.

---

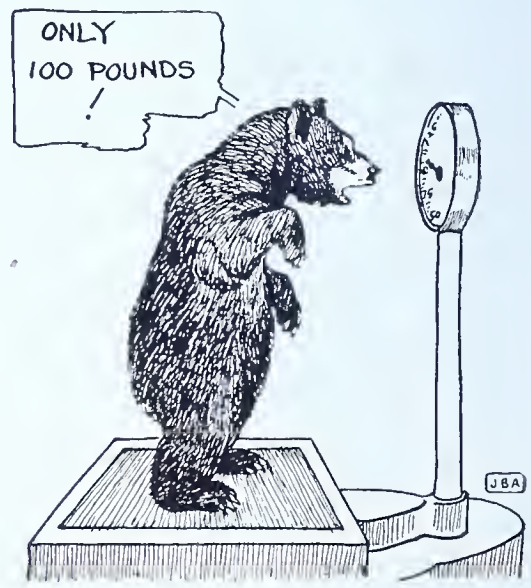
"The take on rabbits as reported by hunters was heavier than last year, with several hunters getting the limit even during the latter part of the season. Pheasants and quail were very few, with more than a fair number of turkeys being taken. I believe there are quite a number of rabbits left, according to reports and observation. Reports have come in that quite a few of the turkeys also are left."—Game Protector John I. Hendricks, Chambersburg, November 1945.

---

"There is a very small amount of small game left in this district for breeding stock. The ringneck sections were hunted exceptionally hard. Wild turkeys survived the season in good shape. During the opening day of deer season I had several reports of turkeys being seen. According to all reports and my own observations we still have a number of bears in the west end of the district."—Game Protector M. B. Wells, Lewisburg, November 1945.

---

"The bear season turned out quite favorably in this section. There were five bears killed in a hollow facing the river near Tidioute. The average weight seemed to be much lighter than usual. Most of the bears weighed about 100 pounds or smaller.




"There are plenty of foxes left in this area and I had several reports from bear hunters who saw where a fox had killed a grouse. Several of the hunters shot at foxes."—Game Protector George H. Burdick, Tidioute, November 1945.

"While checking over the hunting license applications at one of the agents' in Greene County, I was asked if false teeth would be an identification. I was so surprised I thought it must be a joke but this was the story. A boy just discharged from the Army made application to buy a license and was requested to give something for identification. Drivers license? No. Tax receipt? No. Social Security card? No. Bank book? No. He simply had no identification. Finally in desperation the ex-soldier said, "Wait a minute." He reached in his mouth and pulled out a set of false teeth, made while he was in the Army, and on them were printed his name and dog-tag number. I don't think, after that, there would be any doubt in anyone's mind that he was one and the same fellow."—Game Protector John Blair, Waynesburg, November 1945.

---

"Small game hunting over Westmoreland County this season was only fair. In some sections it was poor. Most hunters seemed to realize they could expect little else, considering the heavy snows of last winter, the poor breeding season this spring, and the large amount of vermin in this section.

"Hunters with good dogs seemed to be able to get their birds or rabbits in good numbers, however, until Armistice Day. In good sections I checked numerous hunters early in the season with their daily limit of birds or rabbits.

"While it is common knowledge that foxes have increased greatly in the past four years, it was amazing to learn of the numbers killed by men hunting small game in this county."—Game Protector R. D. Reed, Latrobe, November 1945.

---

"The small game season has ended and I believe the kill of rabbits was somewhat above that expected. A goodly number of hunters have reported a good season's bag of pheasants and squirrels. Both red and gray foxes were found in great abundance in all sections."—Game Protector H. C. Sutherland, Greenville, November 1945.

---

"I only trapped one gray fox during the month of November. Last season I also attempted to trap foxes in this area but without success. As small game was very scarce in this area last year and there is even less this season, it is believed the foxes have simply moved out to other areas where their food conditions are better."—Game Protector Howard F. Hoffman, Susquehanna, November 1945.

"Rabbits were particularly scarce this season but squirrels, coons and grouse were more plentiful than last year.

"We have had fair waterfowl shooting this year with a great increase of geese, many ducks still in these localities, and not severe enough weather to drive them south."—Game Protector George W. Keppler, Meadville, November 1945.

---

"The game kill was very small this season. The number of hunters in the woods and fields was also very small. Only a few days of November were the hunters out in large numbers."—Game Protector John S. Dittmar, Loysburg, November 1945.

---

"The 'coon hunters with good dogs had no trouble getting plenty of 'coons as this animal is abundant in this section. Grouse and rabbit hunters were also fairly successful. The kill of pheasants was lower than usual, but the kill of ducks, squirrels and woodcocks was very satisfactory and better than last year. The trail and stump hunter got very little game this year for there was no tracking snow and there was an abundance of cover."—Game Protector Elmer D. Simpson, Cambridge Springs, November 1945.

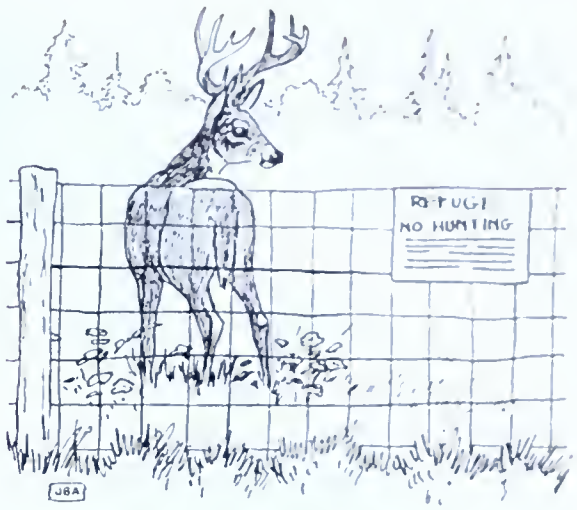
---

"There seemed to be plenty of grouse this season but they were so wild that the hunter could not come within shooting range of them and not many were killed. Squirrels were also plentiful. There weren't as many ringnecks as last year.

"Have had a good many complaints from fox trappers about the small game hunters taking foxes from their traps and lifting the traps."—Game Protector Levi R. Whippo, Parkers Landing, November 1945.

---

"A good many foxes, both red and gray, were killed during the small game season and a lot were missed. All the hunters were surprised at the number of foxes they saw. A good many want to join in with the fox hunters this winter to kill some. This is the first year they have taken up the killing seriously. It has been hard to stir up any interest in the past but now they realize that something must be done. Several of the boys who took trapping instructions from Mr. Plasterer are now getting results."—Game Protector J. Bradley McGregor, Beaver, November 1945.




"Non-resident hunters driving along Route 68 have been looking wistfully at two large bucks which have taken advantage of a refuge."—Game Protector W. T. Campbell, Franklin, November 1945.

---

"The hunting season for 1945 has been the poorest season I ever experienced. All species of game birds and animals were below normal except squirrels. They were above normal in numbers. The only explanation I can give for this condition is failure of reproduction during the summer of 1945.

"Failure of reproduction is not always caused by any one condition, but to a combination of conditions such as weather, overshooting, disturbance by dogs or other enemies during the mating season, and sometimes by the switching of predators from their natural food, because of its scarcity, to food they only use occasionally."—Game Protector Elmer Pilling, Philipsburg, November 1945.

---

"I think the farm-game project went over satisfactorily this season with cooperators pleased and no complaints."—Game Protector Ralph H. Ewing, Polk, November 1945.

---

"Due to the heavy rush of work this month I found it impossible to devote very much time to fox trapping. However I am pleased to announce that the response from trapping demonstrations which I conducted, as well as the bounty on the red fox, have accounted for at least 200 foxes in this area. Professional trappers have taken about half of these and the small game hunters have totalled at least 25 to my knowledge. The other 75 were taken by the amateur trappers, which argues well for a heavy take next season.

"The big shortage in this area in the way of small game was the rabbit. Why? A combination of foxes, hard winter, dry August, poor breeding season, etc. The ringneck kill was light but not too bad considering the above reasons. Quail were scarce, squirrels plentiful and grouse fair."—Game Protector R. P. Schmid, Slippery Rock, November 1945.

---

"The great horned owl seems to be more plentiful than last year at this time. More have been probated for bounty and there are more signs and calling."—Game Protector R. E. Holtzapple, Middleburg, November 1945.

# Guns and Gun Dogs

## NERVES AND THE SHOTGUN

### By Ted Trueblood

A SIX-OUNCE bird shouldn't make a fool of a six-foot man. It isn't right, but it can happen. I know because I was there.

A friend and I were hunting a side-hill pasture for woodcock last fall. It was an ideal spot, moist, rich soil with strips of close-cropped grass and scattered clumps of alders. We had covered it fairly well, I had collected one timber doodle and we were angling back uphill toward the car when I flushed another bird. It fluttered up in characteristic undecided woodcock fashion and angled off to my right toward a patch of cover.

I swung my gun up and then lowered it. My companion and both our dogs were somewhere in that direction so I didn't dare shoot. The woodcock dropped to the grass in clear sight about 30 yards away. I called to my partner, but there was a strong wind blowing in his direction and if he answered I couldn't hear him. Consequently, I walked toward the woodcock, which was standing stupidly on the grass, hoping it would fly out to my left so I could shoot.

When I got close, it rose reluctantly, swung out over the alders to my right and then dodged back into the open grass above me, again coming to earth not more than 30 yards away. Once more it just stood there in the open, apparently a little confused and somewhat dejected. I looked at it, wondering what to do next and gripping my gun tighter and tighter by the minute.

Next, I heard Bud, the pointer, coming toward me through the alders. I called him in and yelled to my companion, but again failed to hear his reply. Little Duke, the springer, appeared then and I knew the woodcock would be on his way very, very shortly. When Duke pushes them out they really take off!

I turned Bud loose and began to walk toward the bird. I could look him right in the eye and I was wound up as tight as a duck hunter's alarm clock. Then Duke taught him not to sit on the grass. When I was about 15 yards away, he started up and to my left as though he'd just thought of something important. There was nothing between him and me but air and there was nothing beyond him but the beautiful, blue sky. He started out to fly a circle around me at a distance of 20 yards and—much as I hate to admit it—that is just exactly what he did!

I took out the two empties and slipped two fresh shells into my gun and I hope nobody else ever has as low an opinion of me as I had of myself at that moment. A blind man could have killed that bird with a Flit gun, but I didn't even know where I'd shot.

Now, I know why I missed that woodcock twice. I've done the same thing before when I saw a bird on the ground. It was simply a case of nerves. The longer I watched him the tighter they got until, by the time I finally had a chance to shoot, I couldn't have hit an elephant floating through the air on a cobweb.

A man goes through somewhat the same thing when he walks in on a point, whether he is hunting grouse, quail, pheasants or woodcock. The point alone is bad enough, but if you happen to see your bird on the ground, watch out! The odds are you'll miss him, and if you make the mistake of standing there and watching him instead of pushing him out, he's a fairly safe bird.

A friend of mine who is one of the finest shots I know gave me the best answer I've found so far to the problem. When he walks in to flush a bird, he carefully avoids gripping his gun. Instead, he balances it over his open left hand (safety on, of course) with the muzzle at a slight upward angle. His right hand is held loosely over the grip and his fingers are away from the triggers. Then, during those awful instants before the flush, he repeatedly tosses his gun, very gently—nor more than an inch—with his left hand, keeping it balanced with the right.

In this way, his gun always is under con-

(Continued on page 32)

*We heartily welcome beginning with this issue two nationally known authorities on guns and gun dogs. Ted Trueblood, of Field and Stream needs no introduction to most Pennsylvania sportsmen and his contributions monthly in Game News from now on will be right down their alley. The same is true of Herbert Kendrick, manager of WHGB radio station, Harrisburg, who knows gun dogs like nobody's business and as that famed authority on the subject of dogdom Horace Lytle says, will do a bang up column for you. Next month Mr. Kendrick will start a series of short articles on selecting and training a hunting dog.*

## WHY OWN A BIRD DOG?

### By Herbert Kendrick

WHEN wine-like autumn days come around and the heavy frosts change the hillsides and valleys into a hunter's wonderland, the crowning climax appears as a seasoned well bred, thoroughly trained bird dog quarters back and forth with his head high and his tail swinging merrily. Then suddenly his nostrils become filled with the glorious scent of a ruffed grouse. He stops immediately, walks stiff legged a few graceful steps and freezes. Then you know the bird is only a few feet from his accurate nose. You walk past your statuesque canine companion and the brown bomber explodes from the leaves and bursts through the tangled vines and second growth. Your gun speaks once, and midst a little cloud of floating feathers he nose dives to the ground. You hear the familiar thud that makes every bird hunter's heart skip a beat. The dog moves in fast and straight to the prize, lifts it gently, then retrieves it for his master. There is outdoor hunting perfection, and the result of weeks, months, and years of careful planning and training. This picture does not just happen by reason of chance or luck. It is the deserved reward of the man who is farsighted, ambitious, and sportsman enough to go to the trouble of selecting a well bred pup, and going through all the phases of training that makes a dog worthy to be called your hunting companion.

By far too many hunters are hunting small game in our State without the aid of a dog. We shall do everything in our power to impress upon our readers the necessity of owning a first rate bird dog. We want to first create the desire, and then take up, step by step, the long process of dog training. If you will select a good puppy from well known breeders and start his early training along with us, you will be one of the gunners who will know new thrills and reap a more bountiful harvest of game birds in the fall.

The modern bird dog logically belongs second only to the game bird itself, because he is by far the most important adjunct to the sport of hunting. The upland game hunter can easily, in normal times, buy a new gun, a new car, new hunting clothes, improved ammunition, all on short notice, but

(Continued on page 32)

The Northwest Division of the Pennsylnia Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs plans submit a resolution at the state convenn next February on the nine o'clock openg the first day of the small game season. vision officials want to know what the ajority of sportsmen want recommended garding the nine o'clock starting time, and at the farmers think about it.

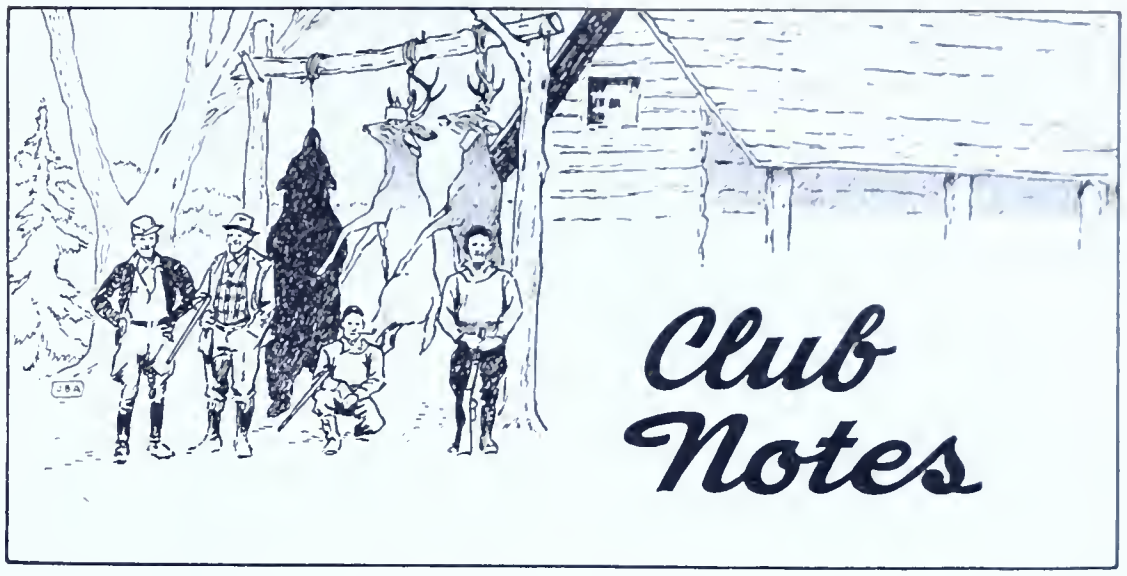
They welcome letters from clubs and inviduals on the subject. Seth L. Myers, cretary of the Northwest Division and outor writer of Sharon says.

The plan was originally intended as a fety measure and courtesy to farmers in ving them time to complete morning chores d still be in the field at starting time along th the fellows from town and city. He mits it was a splendid gesture, but claims works only with the honest hunter, and es the "sooners" an open field. Myers ints out that "the fellow who cares little nothing for the other person's rights arts his violation as soon as it is dayht," whereas "the honest sportsman sits tiently in his car while these violators alk boldly out into the field and begin eir slaughter. He should do something out it, but what is there for him to do? ly an officer can do anything, and that en he actually catches them in the act. ere can not be a game protector at every ooting spot in the state, and otherwise cannot be controlled."

Myers says they want known "sooners" to ep their opinions to themselves, along with eir schemes for meat hogging. The federion wants the ideas of honest men only on oblems pertaining to honest sport.

---

For the past two big game seasons the estern Clinton Sportsmen's Association has onsored an information center in Renovo. is year, again, the association strove to aid e visiting sportsmen and the community : 1. Assisting these visitors to find room d board and thus helping those who have




accommodations to offer; 2. Giving directions so that strangers can more easily reach their destinations; 3. Having the visiting sportsmen register, giving name, home address and local address so that they may be located in case of emergency or that messages can be sent to their homes if necessary or desirable.

In order to enable the center to render the most efficient service to both the sportsmen and those who want to furnish room and board, the club is encouraging those with accommodations to send in their name, address, number that can be accommodated, whether or not meals will be furnished, what rates are asked, etc.

Hotels, restaurants, rooming houses, etc. are also asked to register.

This is a smart idea on the part of the Western Clinton boys and is bound to save many headaches during the hunting season.

---

The South Scranton Sportsmen's Club has purchased a tract of land in Coolbaugh Township for the development of a camp site and hunting area in the deer country.

The Johnstown Sportsmen's Association at a recent meeting decided to support construction of a 200-acre artificial dam on Roaring Run near Jennertown. President Akers named a committee to assist in the campaign to obtain state and federal funds for the project.

---

A special meeting of all Northern Cambria sportsmen's associations was held November 18 to discuss the post-war set-up, the ultimate goal of which is to create fishing, hunting and recreational areas to benefit all persons in the district. This will mean better health and more fun for everybody. We'd like to see each and every resident of the Northern Cambria section get behind this project and really push!

---

To further interest of youth in activities of the club, the West Shore Sportsmen's Association recently decided to admit boys between the ages of 10 and 16 years to social membership free, and a meeting slogan "Bring the Boy Along" was adopted. Returning veterans will be invited to join the organization.

---

Members of the Northern Lancaster County Fish and Game Association will again this winter conduct a rabbit trapping campaign on private property to help solve the source of damage to garden crops during the summer. The club requires its rabbit trappers to secure licenses from the club secretary.

These boys also plan to raise pheasant chicks in cooperation with the Game Commission.

---

The L. and W. Fish and Game Association at Lykens has ordered 108 Missouri cottontail rabbits to be released in the Lykens area. The rabbits will probably be liberated after the small game season has closed.

---

The Bethlehem Game, Fish and Forestry Association is planning to spend close to $1,000 for the purchase of game to be liberated throughout their district. This club has already negotiated for the purchase of rabbits and has pledged cooperation in the State program to raise day-old pheasant chicks.

---

**100% Club**

How many sportsmen's associations in Pennsylvania subscribe 100% to the PENNSYLVANIA GAME NEWS? If your association is a 100% club let us know about it.

*(Continued on page 30)*

Photo by W. L. R. Drake.

**Four veterans of World War No. 2, all patients at the Valley Forge General Hospital, prepare to hunt for ringneck pheasants on the University of Pennsylvania Farm contiguous to Valley Forge Park. The unused farm was designated a regulated shooting ground for the recreational benefit of veterans and upwards of 300 birds were purchased and released. Sportsmen furnished dogs, and guns and ammunition were provided by the Reconditioning Service.**

# ATOMIC POWER IN FUR

(Continued from page

ping the side out of a deer with one pass. A dirty yellow band encircles each flank and meets at the base of the tail. Fur of the same color surrounds, 'coon-wise, the blackish face. His head and tail are carried low and, with his shambling gait he has the look of a bear cub with a bushy tail.

Originally found in New England, New York, Pennsylvania and Michigan, there is not a wolverine now known to be in the United States (with one notable exception mentioned further along in this nostalgic memoir) east of the high Colorado forests. The United States Forest Service's most recent estimate of wolverine population in national forests totals only about 55 animals, in Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Washington and California, commenting briefly, ". . . probably extinct in Idaho . . ." Canada reports it very rare in Quebec and present in small numbers in northern Labrador. The Mount McKinley region of Alaska seems to be the present center of wolverine abundance and most of the skins marketed by Hudson's Bay Company come from there, the Great Bear Lake district or the Yukon. The annual take in wolverine skins by this company has decreased from 1,694 in 1919-20 to 542 in 1941-42; the average for the ten year period from '32 to '42 being slightly over 600 pelts annually. Evidence that they were never a common animal is shown by Hudson's Bay's figures. From 1821 to 1905, 101,426 wolverine skins were handled, an average of only a little more than 1100 per year. Compared to other Canadian mammals, wolverines are about as common as badgers. Black bears are six times more plentiful, lynxes 14 times and red foxes 18 times more abundant. A carcajou skin was worth $30.00 in the fur boom of 1920, and now averages about $15.00. Eskimos regard it highly for trimming their parka hoods because it resists the formation of ice from breath moisture.

The amazing exception to the total absence of wolverines from the eastern United States in the last seventy-five years is contained in an article in the Ohio Conservation Bulletin for June, 1944. This account, with two unmistakably substantiating photographs, tells of a wolverine shot by Dave Klepfer and his son on the night of December 8, 1943, east of Beaver Lake, near the Mahoning-Columbiana County line in Ohio. What these hunters thought was a big 'coon turned out to be a 21-pound wolverine, the first ever taken in Ohio according to that State's Conservation officials. It had been treed four times by a 'coon hound and four times had jumped to the ground. It was finally shot from a limb by Wilbur Klepfer as his father picked him out in the flashlight's beam. The fact of the wolverine's great rarity even in the country's largest zoos almost surely denies that the animal had escaped from some traveling circus, yet there he was, over eight hundred miles from his nearest known range.

Much has been written of the wolverine's enormous strength and indomitable persistence in following and robbing a trapline. Hard-boiled trappers who live on pemmican, cognac and nails have been known to quit a lush fur country in despair when a carcajou moved in. And I imagine that it takes a rugged guy to winter through a season up around Cook Inlet or Peace River. If a twenty-five-pound animal, with fifteen dollars' worth of fur on his back himself, can give the heave-ho to one of those courier-du-bois boys—golly, he must have something! Something more than apple honey has been added to his make-up.

Here are some facts, collected from authoritative sources, most of them eye-witness accounts from reputable woodsmen, explorers and naturalists, about our friend the glutton, carcajou or Indian devil.

One was known to upset a woodpile in Hudson Bay country to get at a cache of meat underneath. A Hudson Bay "woodpile" consists of whole trees set on end in a conical pile. This pile was seventy yards around at the base and the wolverine bit through several logs a foot thick.

A 26-pound wolverine walked six miles in deep snow with an 8-pound trap on one of his forefeet. He carried the trap in his jaws and walked on his remaining three legs.

One has been known to dig a hole several feet deep in frozen ground on which a pickaxe had very little effect.

They not only follow a trap-line to eat or destroy any trapped animals found, but wolverines pull up the traps and carry them prodigious distances to hide them—buried under drifts or deadfalls. They have chewed their way into log cabins and utterly devastated, either by eating or spraying (for they have certain of the skunk's powers) everything edible inside.

A wolverine is afraid of nothing. Man is his only enemy, but, brother, that doesn't bother old man gulo. A carcajou pounced on a deer that had been shot by an Indian, and stood defiantly on the booty until the hunter came up within twenty yards and shot him.

A Chippewayan legend, translated, reads: "A mother bear with young MAY attack you; a mother wolverine CERTAINLY WILL." A young half-breed from this tribe, on the north shore of Lake Athabasca, surprised a female wolverine with four "white" young in a slight hollow under some spruce boughs. The mother rushed at him, "eyes shining blue . . . uttering sounds like a bear." The Indian, unarmed, swung up into a tree after making a swipe at her with a hastily grabbed stick. The young, "pure white," were about the size of muskrats.

A trained observer of the Biological Survey of Canada witnessed a running fight, in deep snow, between a wolverine and a thre year-old bull moose. When the moose w shot it was found that the glutton h bitten a large chunk out of his back. T wolverine escaped in the gloom of t spruces. This occurred in the Yukon 1907.

Besides the skirmish with which th article begins, there are two other episode observed by Walter Fry in Sequoia, whi establish the wolverine's rating among h four-footed neighbors.

In July 1906 two adult bears retreated some haste from the carcass of a cow, up which they were feeding, when one adu wolverine approached.

Three large mountain coyotes were feed ing on a deceased horse high up on Grou Flat in October, 1907. They high-tailed o of the vicinity in a hurry upon the ap proach of one medium-sized carcajou.

In the Sierras the glutton's diet consis of yellow-bellied marmots, carrion, gophe rats and mice. The great strength back his heavily armed paws enables him to d out rapidly any rodents from their unde ground homes.

Wolverines are solitary hunters and ha the widest individual range of any ca nivorous animal—20 to 30 miles in each d rection from the home den.

Four or five young are brought forth June or July in shallow burrows und shelving rocks, fir boughs or deadfalls. M Fry found a rocky den, 11,000 feet up in t Sierras, six inches deep and five feet wi with a scant lining of grass and pine bough The young are cream colored, tinged wi brownish grey on crown, legs, back, unde parts and tail; the face a mask of brown.

As might be expected of a subject so colo ful and temperamental, many wild tales hav been written about friend skunkbear, base on phenomenal Indian legend and pione folk-lore. The best modern wolverine storie that I know of, written by men who com bine a naturalists's knowledge with fiction charm, are herewith listed:

THE GLUTTON OF THE GREAT SNO by C. G. D. Roberts, in his "House In Th Water," L. C. Page & Co., 1908

GULO THE INDOMITABLE, by F. S Mars, in "The Way of the Wild," Stokes Co., 1919

THE SAINT, by F. St Mars, "Outing Magazine about 1911 (This is a corker)

THE DEVIL OF DOOMSDAY, by Samu Scoville Jr., in "Man And Beast," Harcou Brace, 1926 (Read this one if you get hol of it.)

THE FEUD ON SWIFTWATER, by W. C Chapman, in "Green Timber Trails", Cen tury, 1920

THE DEVIL OF SPRUCE GLOOMS, b Kenneth Gilbert, in "Fighting Hearts of th Wild", Century 1928

THE DEVIL ANGEL, by Alexande Sprunt, in "Dwellers of the Silences", Dod Mead, 1935

More seriously scientific articles abou wolverines, but fascinating reading for th student of the subject, would include:

THE QUADRUPEDS OF NORTH AMER ICA, by J. J. Audubon and J. Bachman N. Y., 1849-54

FUR BEARING ANIMALS, by Ellio Coues, U. S. Geological Survey, 1877

MAMMALS OF THE ADIRONDACKS, by C. Hart Merriam, N. Y., 1884

LIVES OF GAME ANIMALS, by E. T. Seton, N. Y., 1928

LARGER NORTH AMERICAN MAMMALS, by E. W. Nelson, Nat'l. Geog. Soc., 1916

FADING TRAILS, edited by Dan Beard, N. Y., 1943

EXTINCT AND VANISHING MAMMALS OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE, by Glover Allen. (This is one of the very best)

Photographs of wild wolverines are scarcer than nylons. Two of the best I know of appeared nearly forty years apart—the first, in National Geographic Magazine in 1908, was taken by Mr. Alan D. Wilson and shows a treed carcajou high up in a dead yellow pine in Wyoming; the other came out in "Alaskan Sportsman" for February 1945 and is an excellent shot of a wolverine plowing through deep snow. There is a good photograph of a caged wolverine, taken a good many years ago, I think in the Washington Zoo, and used in the New York Forest, Fish & Game Report (a book) for 1902-3. This photograph serves as the basis for Mr. Walter Weber's excellent painting reproduced on the Sequoia National Park stamp in the recent series of stamps of "Wildlife of National Parks".

Among artists, that unsurpassed animal illustrator, Charles Livingston Bull, stands head and shoulders above anyone else in showing wolverines in repose or in action. Some of Mr. Bull's best drawings of this species are found in:

HOUSE IN THE WATER, by C. G. D. Roberts (previously mentioned)

PEOPLES MAGAZINE, in early 1920's, illustrating a story by H. M. Batten.

RED BOOK MAGAZINE, in 1920's, illustrating Sam Scoville's fine story, "The Devil of Doomsday".

Saturday Evening Post illustrations for a story by Hal G. Evarts in about 1925

Colored poster issued by Winchester Arms of game animals in 1919 or 1920

FUR FACTS, by A. M. Ahern (a book)

Book of short stories by Paul Annixter, published by Penn around 1929.

Paul Bransom, a fine wildlife illustrator who is skillful in depicting anatomy, fur texture, and characteristic attitudes of his subjects, has an excellent wolverine drawing in McCracken's "The Biggest Bear On Earth", published by Lippincott last year. Other good examples of carcajou as seen by Bransom are in "Field & Stream" in 1944, "Country Gentleman" and "St. Nicholas" in the 1920's. Louis Agassiz Fuertes has a spirited wolverine painting reproduced in National Geographic's "Larger North American Mammals", and another good one in colors in "The Burgess Animal Book". I have mentioned Weber's painting on one of the National Park Stamp series and this just about makes up the total of all the naturally lifelike portraits of old man carcajou that I know of. If you want a clear mind-picture of a wolverine shun like poison most of the illustrations of the beast in the various "standard" works on natural history now on the market. These are, for the most part, drawn by men who had, apparently, but short peeks at poorly preserved skunkbear skins, stuffed with sawdust. One exception to this is a good drawing, by a German named Specht, of a wolverine on a reindeer carcass. This is reproduced in Brehm's "Life Of Animals" and in several other natural history works. Other pictures labeled "wolverine" or "carcajou" or "glutton" have been drawn or painted—but of them the less said the better. They can best be described by the overly-quoted countryman's remark upon being exposed to a giraffe for the first time, "There ain't no such animal!"

As a matter of fact, *gulo luscus* himself very nearly fulfills that last statement, for he is an amazing beast. He looks like the normal result of wedlock between a skunk and a bear. He acts like a Dead End kid at his worst and he has the indomitable, imperturbable courage of a doughfoot at Bastogne.

**They not only follow a trap-line to eat or destroy any trapped animals found but pull up the traps and carry them long distances to hide them.**

# PROPAGATED QUAIL vs. WILD QUAIL

wild birds seemed to face a cold rain with terror. As pointed out before nearly all the deaths occurred at the time of heavy rainstorms. When precipitation first started, whether at day or night, the birds scattered to the nearest protection, perhaps corn shocks or low bushes. Boughs of trees seemed to suffice for light showers, but the nailkeg became the haven of refuge during heavy and persistent rains. The pen-reared birds appeared to be as capable of caring for themselves as were the wild ones. In fact on some occasions they seemed to use better judgment in the selection of shelter. It is highly probable that this adaptability of the pen-reared birds was due to the fact that they had previously been accustomed to finding and using an effective shelter in their maintenance pens equivalent to a nailkeg.

There were two main feeding periods for both classes of quail—early in the morning, and late in the afternoon. However, the birds did eat at other times too, especially during mild weather. Similar to a flock of barnyard chickens, both wild and pen-reared bobwhites scratched in the litter for food while maintaining a constant conversation. Some were seen eating shreds of cornstalk and pokeweed stems, pine needles from a branch, and sumac fruit out of a low hanging cluster. When water was frozen, all birds pecked ice from the wall to quench their thirst.

The outstanding difference between the wild birds and pen-reared stock, was in degree of wariness. The wild quail were constantly on the alert, and acted suspicious of every sound and movement. None could be seen on occasions when the operator removed the observation panel to feed or to make adjustments. Towards the end of one of the studies, one or two bold wild males would venture cautiously into the open to eat at feeding time, but would quickly scurry back into the pines at a warning signal from one of the females who always acted as sentinel.

On the contrary, the pen-reared birds, even those from hardening pens, showed little fear. The presence of one of the operators nearby did not perturb them noticeably when they were feeding. Although most of them kept their distance from the operators, a few were daring enough to venture within 3 or 4 feet to find food. Peculiar sounds caused little or no excitement among them.

In one aspect, namely, that of being confined, the pen-reared birds had the advantage of prior adjustment as compared with the wild birds. Furthermore, the former were not necessarily subjected to the same degree of nervous strain occasioned by sudden change of environment as the latter may have been.

During the breeding season following the 1943 studies, fourteen wild females, some paired with pen-reared males and some with wild males, were held in captivity, but none laid eggs. Two of these birds that were

*(Continued from page 7)*

kept through the second breeding season in 1944, still failed to reproduce.

### 1944 STUDIES

*Pen-reared Wild Quail vs. High- and Low-producing Pen-reared Quail*

Inasmuch as the direct descendant of the wild jungle fowl, the barnyard chicken, has become very docile through years of breeding in captivity for reproduction, weight, and appearance, it has been suggested that propagated quail also may be undergoing the same transformation. Perhaps quail propagators, in their desire to develop good reproduction and plump birds, inadvertently have been breeding away from stamina and wildness, the most desired characteristics for game birds.

In order to test this theory, in 1944 pen-reared birds of high producing grandmothers and mothers (80 eggs per hen per season), were compared for 3 weeks with wild birds from eggs taken from a nest in the wild, hatched in an incubator, and reared in confinement, together with wild birds captured a year before and kept in pens up to the time of the study. These birds represented the extremes in domestication so far as available stock was concerned. Other comparisons were made (1) of the offspring of high-producing pen-reared mothers with those of low-producing pen-reared mothers and grandmothers; and (2) of the young of fair-producing pen-reared mothers with semi-wild offspring of wild cocks and pen-reared hens. Ten birds of each group were used. In connection with the last two comparisons birds were studied in outdoor control pens as well as in the climoactometer.

The diet used in the 1944 studies consisted of six cultivated seeds: Canada field peas, wheat, Wilson soybeans, milo, millet, and vetch. In the climoactometer this diet was scattered on the floor twice a day; in the outdoor pens, it was fed in hoppers.

Less precipitation was used in the 1944 studies than in those of the previous year, the average daily rainfall in the chamber for the three experiments being 1.1", 0.5" and 0.9" respectively. Temperature varied from —9° to 64° F., and wind velocities of 3, 5½, 7½, and 12 M. P. H. were employed.

*Mortality and General Condition*—No deaths occurred throughout the three experiments and the general condition of all the birds was good. All the birds in the chamber lost weight, but no significant difference existed between the losses of any of the groups being compared. There was a marked difference, however, between the weight losses of birds in the climoactometer and those of quail kept outdoors as controls. Despite bitter cold and heavy snow the outdoor controls maintained their weight much better. One cause of this contrast was undoubtedly the method of feeding involved in each case; the former searching for seed in the litter and ice; the latter merely eating it from sheltered, conviently-placed hoppers.

*Conduct of Birds*—A difference in degree of wariness and timidity was noticed between the pen-reared quail of high-producing captive hens and the pen-reared (or pen-main-

ned) wild stock. This difference may e been accentuated by the fact that the d birds had not been handled for weigh- prior to the study as had been the off- ing of captive parents. During the third ek this difference was not as perceptible at first, but was still very much apparent. The birds of the other two comparisons owed no difference in timidity and wari- ss, even though one group of quail pos- sed wild blood.

*Summary*

Seven experiments, involving a total of mature bobwhite quail (101 pen-reared at least 5 generations of captive quail, 29 ld [6 pen-reared and 23 naturally reared], d 10 semi-wild pen-reared) were con- cted during March and April, 1943, and bruary and March, 1944, in the climo- ometer at the Loyalsock Experimental ation, Montoursville, Pennsylvania, to de- mine what characteristics of pen-reared ail make them unsuitable for survival der wild conditions.

The pen-reared birds of captive back- ound were not as alert and wary as their ld cousin, either pen-reared or naturally ared. This characteristic was the main d outstanding difference between the two oups. There was no noticeable difference, wever, in degree of wariness between the mer and semi-wild pen-reared quail, or tween pen-reared stock of high-producing captive ancestry, and that of low-producing captive ancestry.

Pen-reared quail by judicious use of the "huddle" and natural cover seemed to adapt themselves to adverse weather conditions as well as did the wild quail. They maintained their weight as successfully as wild stock that had been pen-raised or kept in captivity a considerable length of time, but suffered greater loss than wild stock that had been in captivity only a few weeks. Pen-reared stock held through the winter on wire in large hardening pens (60′ 8″ x 12′ x 5′ 3″), and pen-reared stock held in small maintenance pens (12′ x 5′ x 16″) but hardened for 10 to 17 days on the ground in enclosures 36′ x 36′ x 6′, lost less weight during severe weather conditions than unhardened pen-reared quail direct from small maintenance pens.

The pen-reared quail learned quickly how to forage for wild foodstuffs. Their food selection when compared to the diet of wild birds showed general similarity, but with definite differences. Among those pen-reared birds whose stomach contents were analyzed, a greater percentage of fibrous feeds such as sumac *(Rhus glabra)* and poisonous seeds such as sickle senna *(Cassia tora)*, were found to have been selected than was true of the wild birds. However, this observation is based on only one meal partaken by each of 26 pen-reared birds in comparison with that of each of only 6 wild birds. No trace of the poisonous senna seed was found in 12 of the 26 pen-reared quail.

No deaths occurred during sub-zero weather, whereas nearly all the mortality during the experiments happened either during or immediately following unnaturally heavy and prolonged rainstorms.

## ANSWERS TO WHAT'S WRONG

**1. The downy young of Sora Rails are pitch black, and being precocial or able to run about when newly hatched, they are not fed by their parents.**

**2. Kingfishers carry their small fish prey in their bills.**

**3. Porky can't come down headfirst. He has to back down or fall off.**

**4. The very common painted turtle always takes his food UNDER water.**

## BOOK REVIEW

The Carnegie Museum offers "Birds of Western Pennsylvania" by W. E. Clyde Todd, Curator of Ornithology, Carnegie Museum for $5.00 per copy, postage prepaid. Address orders to the Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh 13, Pennsylvania.

Copies are bound in blue buckram, 8 inches by 11 inches in size, 730 pages, with 22 plates in color, illustrating 118 species from the original drawings by George Miksch Sutton; 60 pen and ink drawings and several maps.

**Above are 479 fox pelts and the successful Warren County Trappers who bagged them as of November 25 last year when the Warren County Field and Stream Club asked local trappers to bring in their fox catches for a mass display. In addition the club knows of 204 other foxes which were taken but not displayed. The men in the photo are left to right: Harold Bailey, Ross Bailey, George Pilling, Gerald Rowley, Warren County Game Protector George Norris, Clyde Hansen, Lothair Hamilton, Floyd Dyke, Deforest Whitton, Harold Caepper, Ray Burrows, Jimmy Juliano, Bill Culbertson, Bucky Zaner, Willis Mead, Jr., and Willis Mead, Sr.**

# IS THE PEN MIGHTIER?

(Continued from page 11)

be made safe and pleasant for everyone. This is achieved largely by laws which protect game as well as the hunters.

Such laws are passed by the State Legislature and are so worded that they are fair to everyone.

The first safety measure is getting a license to hunt. This eliminates the danger of children hunting, also any who are not physically fit. Then laws are passed, as to the hours when hunting is allowed and distance from buildings which must be kept. No shooting is allowed across the highway, nor is it permitted from automobiles. In fact, many laws are made along this order.

Then, too, the hunter must be careful for himself. He must be sure that his gun is on safety if it is loaded. He must be careful never to aim his gun at anyone and not to have it loaded when not in use. The hunter must wear red clothing that can be seen from a distance.

Hunting must be safe for all hunters who are in the woods. If all laws are observed, no one will ever shoot until he is positive what he is shooting toward. Then, too, the game in the woods must be considered. Many deer are killed every year unnecessarily just because the hunter did not take time to see if it had horns or not. Smaller game is often killed and left lying in the woods because the hunter saw something more.

Hunting can be made safe by laws enforced by Game Protectors who protect the game as well as the hunters.

* Age 15, Sophomore Class, Lock Haven Senior High School.

## Alfred Thomas*

Advantages of Hunting Safely

Down through the ages hunting has been practiced, first as a means of survival and later as a vigorous, healthful sport. The only way to reap all the benefits of good fellowship, healthy atmosphere, and all around enjoyment it offers is to hunt safely and soberly.

Concise, deliberate thinking is the foremost key to a successful trip and a "glad-to-be alive" return home. To proceed with care in hunting is a challenge which is the serious responsibility of each hunter to accept gladly. The fate of fellow hunters and of you yourself depends on you. Be considerate! Remember, the gun handled with discretion is the gun which will aid the clear thinking hunter to stock his larder to capacity.

Let each of us bear home the well-earned fruits of a sporting triumph over the cunning of the wilds, instead of returning home with a heart filled with needless grief. Shall we remember this hunting season without bitterness and sorrow in our heart, but with a host of fond memories of pleasant times among the wonders of God's nature?

* Age 14, 10th grade, Lock Haven Senior High School.

## Stanley Johnson*

This coming hunting season, due to the fact that many men have been released from the armed services and that an increased amount of ammunition has been released for sale to hunters, there will be an increased number of hunters in the woods. This increase in hunters is no reason why there should be an increase in hunting accidents. It should cause every hunter to be more careful.

Some of the rules a hunter can follow so that there will be fewer accidents are as follows:

1. Wear plenty of red clothing and a red hat. Do not wear clothes that are of black, gray or brown color.
2. Be sure at what you are aiming before you shoot.
3. When crossing a fence, lay your gun down on the other side before crossing it. After you are over, then pick your gun up.
4. Do not climb trees with loaded guns.
5. Do not carry loaded firearms in a car.

If these few simple rules are followed, there will be very few hunting accidents. There is absolutely no excuse for carelessness.

* Age 17, Senior Class, Renovo High School.

## Donald Drake*

As hunting season draws near, we must think of safety. Each year many people are injured and even killed while hunting.

Persons must not only think of themselves but of others; they must obey the hunting rules and regulations.

One law in Pennsylvania is that a loaded gun may not be carried in an automobile and some people have been hurt by disobeying this law. Another law says, no person may shoot a gun across a public highway. This law has saved many lives.

This year the State Game Commission hopes to have fewer accidents, and if hunters obey the hunting rules or regulations we can and will have fewer accidents.

If you are in the woods this hunting season and you see something move but you are not sure of what it is, just stop and think how many people have lost their lives this way.

So let's try to make this season the safest season there has ever been.

* Age 16, Junior Class, Renovo High School

---

Among other clubs who advised us of their program was the Alburtis Rod and Gun Club Inc. who posted safety placards throughout their rural sections, had printed 300 Safety Zone posters and distributed them to farmers and land owners.

The Mifflin County Sportsmen's Association, besides distributing hunt safely posters throughout their district, made up a display in a vacant store window in Lewistown. This display consisted of a large poster depicting a hunter returning safely from a day's successful hunting with a legal kill. This poster was supported by smaller ones showing what not to do while hunting. The window was trimmed with leaves, ground pine, pine cones and other natural trimmings, and in this setting a number of squirrels, pheasants and a bobcat were placed. Two spotlights were used at night to illuminate the exhibit and help to make it outstanding. A card properly exposed to view explained, "This display presented by the Mifflin County Sportsmen's Association in cooperation with Governor Martin's Hunt Safely Week." The window attracted much attention and favorable comment.

The Cambria County Sportsmen's Association conducted a hunt safely essay contest

(Continued on page 32)

---

## "HAMHEAD HOG"

### By S. A. Orr and R. G. Rodkey

"Bet I get something this time!"

# IOXHUNTING IN CHESTER COUNTY

*(Continued from page 8)*

c time before hounds were put on the line. ile occasional "drop hunts" may still oc-:, the great majority of foxhunters today efer to "draw" the country with the pack til a fox is found. This some times entails rking up to the fox on the cold line velled by him during the night or early rning hours. Such a find gives lovers hound work an opportunity to watch the unds as they puzzle out the intricacies of e line and to listen to the voices of the unds from the first uncertain whimper to e authoritative notes of certainty swelling o a triumphant crashing chorus as a hotter ent tells the pack that a fox is indeed ot, and not so far ahead at that!

A fox when found may stay above ground several hours on those frequent days en scenting conditions are unfavorable d he well knows that he has no great use of worry from the pack. On other ys, however, when the scenting condi-ns are such that hounds can really run, does not dally, but takes "leg-bail for se-rity," and usually makes for some friendly rth after a run of some twenty to forty nutes.

One not well acquainted with foxhunting ay wonder why so many hounds are used the pursuit of a single fox, and perhaps el inclined to criticize the sport on the ound that this is unfair to the quarry, d savors of mobbing. Nothing could be rther from the truth. There are several asons why a fairly large pack of hounds desirable. First, in "drawing" open fields d especially in "drawing" large woodlands, is obvious that a pack of hounds covering fairly wide front is more likely to find a x than would be the case if only a few unds were used. Secondly, a pack of unds running well together gives the ield" a definite objective to which to ride, d third and perhaps most important the lume of "music" given forth by a good ck is to many the chief attraction of the ort and in addition is of the greatest value the "field" in keeping contact with the ck, particularly in wooded or rolling untry where hounds frequently are out of ght.

This cry of the pack, as a matter of fact, an advantage to the fox. All huntsmen now that an experienced fox governs his ace according to the nearness and quality of e cry of the pack; he does not seek to itdistance it entirely, but realizes that his

safety is greater if he knows just where hounds are, and this he determines by ear.

I believe most huntsmen will agree that, if they were to go out for the sole purpose of killing a fox, they would take only a very few hounds, and would prefer to be accompanied only by one or two active whippers-in as a large "field" of horsemen, more often than not, works to the advantage of the fox rather than the reverse. Only too often the "field" in their eagerness will by overriding cause the pack to overrun the line, or some horsemen may cross the line of the fox, thus destroying the scent or turn a fox back into cover, or halloo the pack on to the line of a fresh fox.

After all, a single hound can kill a fox if he can catch him. This, however, would involve something of a fight, whereas the death of a fox that may be caught by a pack is instantaneous.

A pack of hounds is really a primitive "weapon" against which to pit the speed and cunning of a fox, and may rather be compared to hunting game with bow and arrow as compared with a rifle or a shotgun.

Those of us who are gunners may fancy that we are hunting alone, and that the game, be it deer, pheasant or rabbit, has only to contend with us; but really we are not alone, for behind us though unseen stand all of the skilled machinists, chemists and designers who have created the modern firearm which we carry and the shell that we slip into its breech.

Foxhunting is a sport that may be enjoyed alike by young and old, rich and poor. An old man on a young horse may well see as much of the day's sport as his younger companions, while a farmer lad mounted on an elderly mule has, by reason of the knowledge of the country possessed jointly by rider and mount, been known to stay closer to hounds in a twisting run than have many of his fellow sportsmen mounted on top-notch thoroughbred hunters.

The sport, too, has a large number of devotees who may never attempt to follow the hounds either afoot or on horseback, but who get no small measure of enjoyment in hearing the cry of hounds as the pack passes near their homes or field of work. They enjoy seeing the pack, watching the horsemen and horsewomen crossing the country, and perhaps get a glimpse of the fox himself as he slips from one cover to another.

Through foxhunting many of its exponents acquire no little skill in the art of orienting themselves to a country, which, combined with the degree of horsemanship that this sport imparts and the knowledge of where it is possible for a horse and rider to go, constitutes an excellent preparation for service in the cavalry. Indeed, during the present emergency there are a considerable number of men in that branch of the service whose experience in the hunting field has been of no small value to them in their army profession. When they get leave of absence during the foxhunting season their first thought is a day with hounds, and a goodly number of service men are frequently to be seen among the "field" with many packs in Chester County and elsewhere.

This brings to mind the experiences of an Englishman who until recently acted as huntsman of a pack of foxhounds in Chester County. Before coming to America, he had served several seasons as whipper-in to a well known pack in England. During the first World War he served as sergeant in a regiment of horse artillery which formed part of the forces of General Allenby in the campaign against the Turks in Palestine. Most of the men in his battalion had been recruited in the cities, and it was found difficult to select men able to act as mounted scouts, able to go forward, locate a battery position, return and guide the battery back to it. The former whipper-in, however, was

*(Continued on page 31)*

# Annual Conference of the Izaak Walton League

(Continued from page 1

that progress was being made in our efforts to use highway fills as dambreasts for the creation of numerous small dams throughout the State, although much work is still ahead before this plan can be brought to fruition. The Resolution concerning the area below the Tionesta Dam was carried out, with satisfactory results. The Resolution concerning a tax on coal was held in abeyance for the time being, following a recommendation from National Headquarters. As a result of a Resolution adopted by the League in 1944, there was created the Pennsylvania Conservation Committee, consisting of the Izaak Walton League and 21 other Conservation Organizations throughout the State. This Organization, which performed yeoman service during the Legislative Session, was headed by 2 League members, Judge Grover C. Ladner, General Chairman, and E. M. Swanger, Chairman of the Executive Committee. The Resolution referring to the use of noncombustible cigarette butts was not acted upon, due to the scarcity of cigarettes during the war period. However, this Resolution will be brought up for confirmation later in the day. "The League", said Mr. Coffman, "was helpful in the passage of the Brunner Bill. The League, too, sponsored House Resolution No. 40, providing for the investigation of the functions of the Fish and Game Departments." Mr. Coffman announced that new Resolutions would be presented toward the close of the afternoon session.

A report on conservation education and publicity was presented by W. J. Meyers, Chairman of that division. Mr. Meyers said, "The Pennsylvania Division of the League did an outstanding job in the field of Conservation Education during the past year." As proof of the above assertion, he distributed mimeographed copies of a report outlining the activities of the Division. The list of books and pamphlets sent out is a veritable "Who's Who?" of conservation literature, and the report was received with enthusiasm by the Waltonians present, many of whom took copies along for future reference.

President Paul Clement stated "Pennsylvania's membership has increased 50% in the last 2 years." This healthy growth is reflected throughout the country, with the result that whereas when Mr. Clement went into office the League's Bank balance was in the "red," it is now in the "black"! Mr. Clement attributed the success of the League's membership campaign to the successful application of the slogan: "Selling is believing something and convincing others".

New Chapters were formed during the year at Franklin and Hyndman and there are good prospects for one at Warren.

Chairmen of the various districts include: No. 1, "Ted" Williamson; No. 2, A. L. Lashley; No. 3, C. W. Ward; No. 4, G. R. Suiters; No. 5, Hope Larish; and No. 6, Russell Melton

### Chapter Forum

The John Harris Chapter, Harrisburg, reported a membership of 48. This group acted as host to the conference and did a swell job of it.

Mr. Foley of the Connellsville chapter reported an active publicity program and a membership of 75.

Armar Bordner, President of the Lebanon County Chapter, reported much publicity during the past year, especially during the fight for the Brunner Bill. He mentioned too, that a Conservation Program had been put on in all high schools in Lebanon County, giving each boy a tree and a copy of the booklet entitled "Poverty or Conservation, Your National Problem" by J. N. Darling. A program at present being inaugurated has as its goal the creation of Living Memorials in the form of a suitable tree for every soldier whose life was lost in Lebanon County. The Lebanon County Chapter, too, is inaugurating a Soil Conservation Program, to be held in connection with the other Conservation Organizations in the County.

John Newcombe, reporting for the Huntingdon Chapter, stressed the opposition of the Organization to the erection of a dam on the Raystown branch of the Juniata. This dam, which was to cost in the neighborhood of $2,500,000 and which was to be another one of the "multiple purpose dams", was opposed as being neither desirable nor necessary. As a result of the Chapter's action, the matter lies dormant for the present. Also

as a result of Chapter activities the City of Huntingdon and surrounding communities are now engaged in planning a sewage disposal system. They were instrumental, too, in remedying two cases of stream pollution in Huntingdon County and have done considerable educational work in distributing various literature to the State Division membership. They are also inaugurating a tree planting program as a project for the coming spring.

"Ted" Williamson reported for the Oil City Chapter, now having a membership of 200. Following is a list of their accomplishments during the past year:

1 Stocked several thousand fish, secured from Federal Hatcheries.

2 Built rifle range, which was turned over to the Home Guards during the War. Ortervals.

3 Created a park of 60 acres, devoting 3 acres to the Boy Scouts and 3 acres to the Girl Scouts for their outdoor activities. ganized a rifle team, giving instructions in careful handling of fire-arms at regular in-

4 Reprinted 3,000 copies of the seasons and bag limits on game, as soon as they w released by the Game Commission, and d tributed them to interested persons.

5 Contacted their Congressmen in supp of desirable legislation.

6 Planted 15,000 trees in their parks to developed as refuges.

7 Planned to systematically harvest a sell Christmas trees so as to prevent abuse which creeps into promiscuous cutt by mercenary agents.

Frank Thomas, representing the Philad phia Chapter, mentioned the origin of Schuylkill River Valley Restoration Assoc tion as being one of the off-springs of Philadelphia Chapter. He mentioned, t that his local organization had been instr mental in stopping the pollution of their f trout stream. He urged the support of Mundt and Meyers Bills in Washington. Thomas was very much interested in report of the Oil City Chapter having to with the aid given to Boy Scouts, and w enthusiastic about this approach. Followi his report, President Shilling interjected few pertinent remarks concerning the co servation of human life, particularly that the youth of our country.

Mr. Perry, reporting for the Pittsbur Chapter, announced a three-point progr for his organization:

1 More members;

2 Control of Acid Mine Drainage;

3 Sewage Disposal for Pittsburgh a vicinity. He announced the appointment Dr. I. H. Alexander, City Health Direct Pittsburgh, as a Committee of one to foll through on abatement of pollution. A jo authority seems to be in prospect for Pitt burgh and surrounding Boroughs in All gheny County.

Berks County Chapter was represented Mr. Marburger. He gave an outline of t manner in which the Berks County Chap functions, as follows:

1. Outline of Business
   A. Functions of Committees
      1. Woods—Plant Trees
      2. Waters—Stock Fish
      3. Wildlife—Co-operate with Ga Commission
      4. Education:
         a. Radio Programs
         b. Essays and Poster Contests
      5. Program—Arrange monthly mee ing
      6. Publicity:
         a. Monthly Bulletin
         b. Newspaper and Radio Publici
2. Other Club Activities

"Farmers Nights", "Corn Husking Bee "Clam Bakes", Hikes, and Ladies Nights.

As a result of these activities, Mr. Ma burger reported that their average month attendance at regular meetings ranges fro 75 to 130 members.

Mr. Knight Mead, reporting for the Unio town Chapter, reiterated their interest Conservation Education, and stated that the membership now is up to the full 100 allow under their By-Laws.

Mr. Elmer W. March, reporting for the Yo Chapter, commented on their membersh now standing at 300 with a sizeable waiti list. "All members", he said, "are placed

# THE DEARTH OF SMALL GAME

**By L. D. Reddinger, editor "In and Off The Trail" Outdoor Column of the Brockway Record**

"HAT there is a decided scarcity of small game, particularly rabbits and grouse, nnot be denied by even the most optistic hunter. Thousands of shotgun enusiasts are returning home daily with npty game bags after hours of tireless arching. Areas that have, in past years, oduced large quantities of furred and athered game have yielded negligible numrs this season.

It is most unfortunate that such a contion be encountered at a time when many turning servicemen expect to take down eir beloved scatter gun and hie themselves to the woodlands for some enjoyable peacene shooting. It is even more unfortunate nen they return from the field after a days ek and report not a shot fired. Like the st of us, they may want to know just what H—— happened to all the game around re.

Not so many years ago one could go out the surrounding hills and bag the limit of nnies without getting out of sight of town. day on a five miles jaunt one may bag one two—if he's lucky.

For the past several years we have witssed a steady decline of rabbits, grouse d squirrels. We were at a loss to fully plain the decrease but many logical theies were advanced. Today we have learned at not one reason, but a combination of any is responsible for the game shortage. it could be boiled down to only one ason, the answer would surely be that an has unbalanced the controls of nature.

History, as found in early records tends prove that all life, if unmanaged, seems to fluctuate between extremely high peaks of population on one hand and extreme scarcity on the other. When Wildlife failed, the Indian died of starvation and diseases associated with malnutrition. When game was at a population peak he prospered and was rich in life's necessities. Records of the Hudson's Bay Company for over a century bear out such claims.

Such fluctuations in a vast unpopulated wilderness were entirely due to Nature's method of maintaining a balanced control. Game was not "harvested" as it is in areas inhabited by millions of sportsmen. The Indian killed off only a very small proportion of game birds and animals, only what he needed for food and clothing. Consequently thousands of animals had to be eliminated in order to keep a relatively stable population over an extended period of time. This was accomplished by nature in various ruthless ways. Disease accounted for thousands of animals. Countless numbers were killed by predators. Many more thousands just vanished in mysterious ways known only to Mother Nature herself.

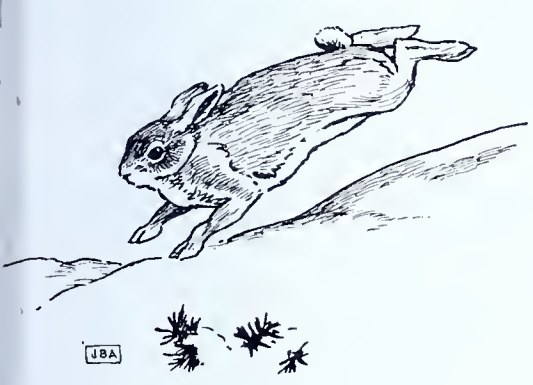
It is common knowledge that our own game shortage we have encountered so far this season is not due to mass migration or any mysterious motives. Most of the theories and arguments advanced by sportsmen for the scarcity are comparatively simple and logical. Foremost among several good reasons is the unusual number of predatory animals and birds of prey. Leading the list, according to most hunters, are foxes. Then comes the well known skunks, followed by the mink, weasel, hawks, owls and common crow. Another good bet not to be overlooked is the friendless stray house eat.

During the winter and spring months the fox, without doubt kills no small amount of rabbits and grouse. The mink and weasel account for many more. The sharp-shinned, cooper's and goshawk all prey on small game the year 'round. For the past three to five years the great horned owl has increased notably and the common crow is no slouch when it comes to destroying eggs or young.

Another peeve, and a just one, is the woodchuck or ground hog. The latter name is well applied for he certainly is a hog, destroying much of the food supply that would in normal years furnish the cottontail with provisions. In Pennsylvania the 'chuck is classed as game and is fully protected by a closed season for nine months out of the year. This was brought about by the fact that the woodchuck is a great digger of dens. After the 'chuck has crawled in for hibernation, the rabbit is privileged to share the den for protection from storm and extreme cold. Since the woodchuck has greatly increased in population, dens have also increased in numbers, and, as any rabbit hunter will tell you, since the number of dens have increased the rabbits are depending more and more on them for protection. With any woodchuck den handy, seven out of ten rabbits will bound into the nearest hole as soon as they are routed. If the cottontail is pursued by a dog, cat, hawk, owl, or fox the den affords ample protection. On the other hand, if his enemy is a mink or weasel, the den on which he depends for his very life becomes his own death-trap.

The smaller animals can easily enter and kill the occupant. I believe many rabbits are killed in this way. If you do not agree, find a weasel or mink track in the snow, trail it for two hours and count the number of holes he enters.

If game is to be "harvested" each year in order to maintain a healthy supply, it seems no more than logical that our predators must also be held a reasonable level. If, as is believed, small game has hit a decided "low", it should naturally follow that beasts and birds of prey should soon follow suit and a rapid decrease be noted in another season. They surely cannot exist in large numbers if the food they need is lacking.



---

committee. A questionnaire is sent to all embers asking them in what they are nterested, and in this way the committees re selected." Attendance at York Chapter neetings averages from 75 to 150. Mr. March sted the following as main Chapter acvities:

1 Purchase of Waltonian acres, a property ith several buildings suitable for a meeting lace.

2 Sponsorship of three fishing contests very year.

3 Securing of 2200 day-old pheasant hicks of which 75% were raised to an age f 8 weeks.

4 Two field trials every year.

5 Selling of trees as living memorials to he highest bidders. Up to the present time they have derived an income of about $3,000 by this method, the money so raised being put into the building fund.

Donald Bierbach, representing the new Franklin County Chapter, reported a membership of 75. He made the pertinent observation that he felt the Franklin County Chapter had less money but more enthusiasm than any other Chapter in the State. With such enthusiasm, we can look for great things from this new Chapter.

The Greene County Chapter was not represented in person, but pledged their support to the activities of the State Division by letter, read at this point by President Shilling. Their activities during the past year were mostly devoted to an intensive publicity and educational program.

Phil Platt, past President of the State Division, now appealed for support of Federal Legislation now before the Congress. He mentioned HB519 by Mundt and SB535 by Meyer, as deserving support. He also urged opposition to HB4070 and SB1462. "The proper procedure", said Mr. Platt, "is to write to the Chairman of the Committee on Commerce in the Senate and the Committee on Rivers and Harbors in the House. These letters should then be followed up by correspondance with the Representatives of the local Districts."

President Emeritus John Deck gave a brief but inspiring resume of the ideals of the League, and expressed his delight with the manner in which the present administration

*(Continued on page 29)*

# Law Enforcement and General Field Administration Recommendations

(Based Upon Suggestions Submitted to the Commission By Its Employes and Others Interested, and Approved January 11, 1945)

## GENERAL POLICY

**Early History**—The law establishing the Game Commission in Pennsylvania was enacted in 1895, but the Commission did not begin to function until November 1896. The first appropriation of $800 became available in 1897.

Until 1913 the Commission had to depend upon rather meager appropriations from the Legislature. During this time the Game Law was enforced mainly by a few paid Game Protectors and special wardens, who received one-half the penalties collected as compensation for their services. After 1905 the State Police rendered assistance, and the few Refuge Keepers also did what they could in their limited field of work.

In 1913 the hunter's license system was established, substantially increasing the funds available for game protection. The Commission was then authorized to employ a total of 20 Game Protectors at $900 per annum, in addition to necessary Refuge Keepers. By December 1, 1914, there were 23 paid Game Protectors, 7 Refuge Keepers, and about 400 Special Deputy Game Protectors.

The objective was to increase the Game Protector force until there would be an officer for each county. In 1915, the total force had increased to less than 60, all of whom were directly responsible to the Chief Game Protector at Harrisburg, with one general Field Superintendent. From 1915 to 1924, Game Law enforcement was conducted principally on the basis of each officer confining his activities to a designated county.

By 1924 the protection force had increased to 64 officers and 32 Refuge Keepers. That spring (effective 6/1/24) the Commission began selecting all officers by competitive mental and physical examinations. The State was divided for law enforcement purposes into nine districts. The position of "Division Supervisor" (then called Traveling Protector) was created and nine such officers were appointed. Game Protector were placed in immediate charge of the Supervisors, who in turn be came responsible to the Chief of the Bureau of Protection, with head quarters at Harrisburg. This same year, the position of "Assistan Game Protector" was created, and eight such Assistants were appointe throughout the State to function as assigned.

In 1929, the number of field administrative divisions in the Common wealth was reduced to seven, and field officers were equipped wit uniforms for the first time.

**Training Program**—To increase the efficiency of the field force, th Training School was established in 1932, operating for a six-weeks perio each year as a "refresher" course for the regular field personnel. Th Commission permanently established a Training School in 1936, nea Brockway, Jefferson County, from which three classes of student office have been graduated to date.

As the enforcement needs of the service expanded, the number c Assistant Game Protectors was increased and their title was change from "Assistant Game Protector" to "Traveling Game Protector."

**State Redistricted**—On June 1, 1936 the protection force consiste of seven Division Supervisors, 66 District Game Protectors, 30 Travelin Game Protectors, and 44 Refuge Keepers. The "Group Management plan for lands management was inaugurated in 1939. In the interes of more efficient law enforcement and general field administration, th State was subdivided into 100 districts, effective June 1, 1941, thu reducing and more nearly equalizing the areas assigned to each Gam Protector and giving all officers (other than land management men the same responsibilities. The position of Traveling Game Protector wa abolished and a total of 47 Land Management Groups authorized.

## A. LAW ENFORCEMENT AND GENERAL FIELD ADMINISTRATION

| 1. Salaried Personnel | Current Practices | Immediate Changes Recommended | Future Program Recommendations |
|---|---|---|---|
| Many salaried officers still serving with U. S. Armed Forces. These are assigned to their former position on return to duty.<br><br>**Changes Made in Past Year**<br><br>June 1, 1945. The Commonwealth was again subdivided into 150 Districts. The title of Land Manager abolished and all functional activities combined in each District under one Officer regardless of the character of work performed. This change confines duties to smaller areas and produces greater efficiency. | At the present time the Commonwealth is divided into 150 districts for law enforcement purposes, with a salaried officer normally in charge of each, functioning under the seven Field Division Supervisors, who are in charge of all administrative operations throughout the respective Divisions. | Recommend **immediate planning to redistrict the Commonwealth into 150 districts.**<br>Note: Was done on June 1, 1945.<br>Consider the **immediate appointment of an Assistant** in the Division of Law Enforcement (or working immediately under the Assistant Director as head of the Bureau of Field Operations) **to coordinate all general field activities, with headquarters at a central point in the State.** This officer would devote his entire time to the field, and later also would have under his direct control the squad of special law enforcement officers.* | Consider the appointment of seven competen persons, selected on a competitive basis, as As sistant Division Supervisors, with specialize training in law enforcement and other duties to aid in the administrative functions and ac for the Supervisor in his absence.*<br><br>It may ultimately be found desirable to divid the Commonwealth between the East and Wes without regard to Division lines, and provide field coordinator in charge of Western Regior the other in charge of Eastern Region. |

* Already being done or approved for completion at an early date.

| 2. Deputy Game Protectors | Current Practices | Immediate Changes Recommended | Future Program Recommendations |
|---|---|---|---|
| (Non-Salaried) | Appointments are restricted to carefully selected persons, on an examination basis, to assist in law enforcement activities throughout the Commonwealth. Each Deputy Game Protector is under the immediate supervision of the District Game Protector of the district in which he resides. There are approximately 700 of these persons commissioned at the present time, which number for improvement of administrative purposes should be materially reduced. | None. | Following the inauguration of the new district establish reasonable quotas of Deputy Gam Protectors who will be required to pass a mor comprehensive examination before appointmen.<br><br>Inaugurate a training plan for Deputy Gam Protectors under the supervision of the Super intendent of Training, either at the School o in the several Divisions, offering training an study of the Game and Fish laws, legal prac tices and procedures, and public relations. Com pensate them for the days devoted to suc training programs, including travel and sub sistence expenses.<br><br>Establish liberal budgetary allowances for us by District Game Protectors in the employmen of Deputy Protectors as **needed.** These allow ances to become effective June 1 and exten to May 31 of the year following, with unre stricted use (within the budget allowance throughout the entire period. |
| (a) Uniforms | The Commission at the present time supplies certain uniform equipment for its salaried field personnel and utilizes surplus garments for Deputy Game Protector use. | None. | It is recommended the Commission be mor liberal in the furnishing of uniform equipment and provide additional items, such as shoes hose, etc. |

*(Continued on next Page)*

### SEASONS ON FUR-BEARING ANIMALS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Minks, Skunks and Otters* | Unlimited | Nov. 1.. Feb. 1, 1946 |
| Muskrats (By traps only)* | Unlimited | Dec. 1.. Feb. 1, 1946 |
| Beaver (By traps only) * | 2 | Feb. 15.. Mar. 1, 1946 |
| Opossums | Unprotected until September 30, 1946 | |

*Special Notice*

Remember that beaver pelts must be tagged within 10 days after the season and may not be sold until they are so identified.

**PREDATOR CONTROL**

| | Current Practices | Immediate Changes Recommended | Future Program Recommendations |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Utilization of Commission employes, supplemented by the use of other experts not in our permanent service, in the training of salaried field personnel and others in control methods.<br>Encourage the use of dogs to increase interest in fox hunting. | Expand and continue present efforts, until after the war. | A long-term program of predator control is recommended, following the war, designed to depopulate predators to desirable levels. This objective to be gained through the appointment of a full-time Predator Specialist who will assist in instruction and demonstrations coordinating all elements with predator problems.<br>Develop an educational bulletin on Predator Control, pictorially illustrated, and to include the handling and care of pelts, stressing the economic values.<br>Continue to pay bounties as at present until an equally, or more, effective plan is devised.* |
| **ISSUANCE OF PERMITS** | Handling of 16 classifications of special permits, involving approximately 1039 permits annually. Field and office investigations are involved. | None. The entire system for the handling of applications, field investigations, reports and renewals has recently been revamped and will be in full effect when all forms have been received from the printers. | None. |
| **REFEREE HEARINGS, ETC.** | The Chief of the Division of Law Enforcement now handles all referee hearings in shooting cases, as well as numerous special investigations of a technical or confidential character. | None. | It is proposed to develop the necessary training and skill among Supervisors or other Assistants so that the Referee Hearing load may be distributed in the future, and all persons responsible for careless handling of firearms cited to appear before a designated referee. |
| **PERMANENT REGISTRATION OF HUNTERS** | None. | Adopt and promote permanent registration plan. (Requires amendment of law.) | Place into practice the permanent registration plan in accordance with separate outline submitted to all Commissioners. |

## HE 20TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE

*(Continued from page 27)*

carrying on the work which he fostered ıring his term of office.

Phil Platt made a plea to revive the matter : 50c increase in the Fishing License, and rged that the matter be brought up again t the next convention of the League.

Mr. Blackburn, reporting for the Bedford hapter, stressed their interest in three main rojects:

1. Educational Program
2. Increase of Membership
3. Plans for a Recreational Area

The annual banquet was held at noon of he 28th, the special guest of the occasion eing "Philip", a young lad of about 13. n an impassioned plea, President Shilling sked all present to preserve for Philip, perenifying as he did the young of America, ll the splendid outdoors which we of the lder generation has enjoyed so fully.

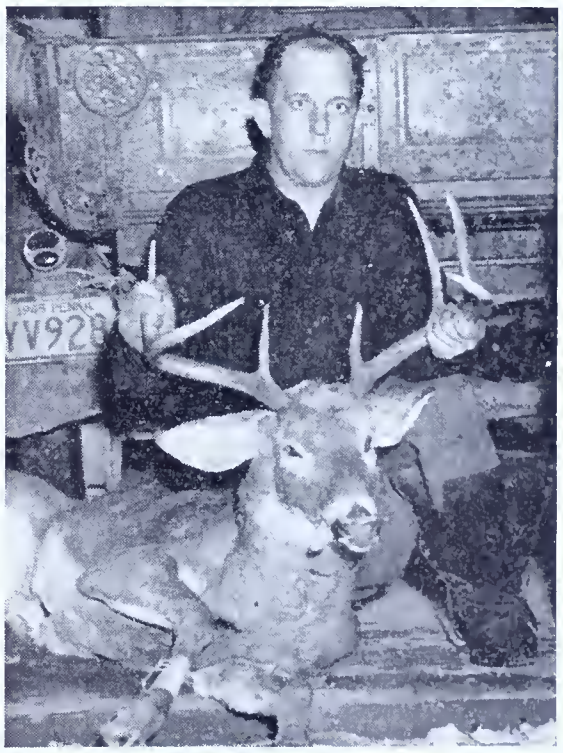
Mr. J. Harold Coffman, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, presented the following Resolutions:

1. "The Huntingdon County Chapter, Izaak Walton League of America, recommends to the Pennsylvania Division, Izaak Walton League of America, assembled in annual meeting at Harrisburg, October 27-28, 1945, the appointment, by the President of the Division, of a committee to study the advisability of a move to control the cutting of timber in Pennsylvania by State Law, with particular consideration to the problems of control over privately owned woodlands. Said committee to be directed and empowered to draw up a Bill incorporating measures of control deemed necessary by the committee, and further, that said committee be required to submit the proposed Legislation to the next annual meeting of the Division." RESOLUTION ADOPTED

2. Whereas, studies made by the Bureau of Standards concerning cigarettes disclose that 54,000 cigarettes are thrown away every second at an average length of 1¼ inches, which stumps take from eight and a half to twelve minutes to burn out, and tests show under favorable conditions that nineteen out of twenty (tests) butts set fires on Douglas fir duff in Washington, and,

Whereas, Under such circumstances it must be clear that free-burning cigarettes may be and most likely are a prolific source of forest fire,

Be It Resolved, That the Pennsylvania State Division of the Izaak Walton League of America authorize its President to appoint a committee with power to investigate the subject further, and if deemed advisable, to form a larger committee with representatives of other conservation groups and sportsmen's organizations of Pennsylvania, with the view of contacting the cigarette manufacturers and requesting that they manufacture a cigarette without the present free-burning qualities, or with a non-combustible butt which will put the cigarette out when it is two-thirds consumed. RESOLUTION REAFFIRMED



John Keffer of Monacy, with buck killed in McKean County near Port Allegany. It weighed 171 lbs. dressed and had a 20-inch spread.

3. WHEREAS, The State Division of the Izaak Walton League of America was confronted with six very important Resolutions, approved October 14, 1944, as well as, the great mass of Legislation requiring immediate effort in support or opposition thereof, most important of which was House Bill No. 1, and,

WHEREAS, pressing need for conservation education, especially, in the ranks of youth, required extensive study and a program of action, and,

WHEREAS, the execution of so vast an assignment, after Convention time, fell upon the shoulders of a few in executive capacity, and,

WHEREAS, the accomplishment of any one of these would have constituted a major victory in our conservation program, and,

WHEREAS, this Division is fortunate to have been favored with the calibre of leadership necessary to carry forward that program such as was displayed by those in authority,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That this Convention held in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania October 28, 1945 recognize and extend sincere gratitude for the untiring efforts of these men in behalf of Division objectives. RESOLUTION ADOPTED

Officers elected for 1946 include Howard Shilling, Huntingdon, President; Wendell A. Stone, Uniontown, 1st Vice-President; T. E. Williamson, Oil City, 2nd Vice-President; G. E. Suiters, Everett, 3rd Vice-President; and G. F. McConnell, Stewartstown, Treasurer. President Shilling appointed E. M. Swanger, Lebanon, as Secretary.

Directors include: C. F. Glessner, Harris-

*(Continued on page 32)*

# NOTES FROM THE FIELD

"Small game season this year was the worst in years. Rabbits, quail and ringnecks were all scarce due to the bad weather last winter and the increase in foxes. Where foxes are plentiful there just aren't any rabbits.

"Bear season can be considered quite successful. Probably 65 bears were taken in the division. More would have been killed if the recent cold snap had not inspired many of them to go into hibernation."—Field Division Supervisor Hayes T. Englert, Oil City, November 1945.

---

"The hunting season just past, I believe, struck an all-time low in the amount of game killed. Squirrels were the only animals to hold their own. In fact I think we might have had a few more squirrels than normally. This could have been due to a good acorn crop in some sections."—Game Protector Clyde E. Laubach, Clearfield, November 1945.

---

"The kill of small game in this section was extremely light. Very few of the hunters reported they had found game plentiful, although some very good season bags were reported. Grouse were hard to find according to reports of all hunters, but I feel there are more birds now than at the close of the season in 1944."—Game Protector L. B. Rosenkrans, Wilcox, November 1945.

---

"We seemed to have more ringnecks in the district prior to the opening of the season than have been seen during the past several years. On the first day of the season we had a large influx of hunters from all over the state and many hundreds of birds were shot. After that there were not so many hunters and the birds seemed to have vanished."—Game Protector Bruce P. Yeager, Northumberland, November 1945.

---

The Pennsylvania Division of the Izaak Walton League of America has chalked up a 50% gain in membership despite the trying times of war. Three new chapters have been organized. National has shown a big increase with more states coming into the fold. Waltonism has proven itself the nation's leader in unselfish service to preserve a glorious outdoor heritage.

"We had few hunters in the district due to scarcity of game. Many hunters have reported the game fairly abundant in outlying districts. The Lake is producing some fair duck shooting. The bad weather should bring in a lot more ducks and improve the hunting."—Game Protector Clifford L. Ruth, Wesleyville, November 1945.

---

"This was the most unusual hunting season I have experienced in this county. On the first day, as well as the second and third days, there were few hunters in the field. November 10 and Thanksgiving Day were big days. Many hunters complained about the scarcity of small game. However, I believe that many hunters passed up a lot of game in the unusually heavy weed crop and other good cover.

"Quail were not as plentiful as they were a year ago. Foxes seemed abundant in all sections of the county. Gray foxes are definitely on the increase.

"There were 13 deer killed by cars on highways in this county from October 15 to the end of November. Most of them were bucks.

I observed about 15,000 to 20,000 blackbirds on November 26. I also saw some nice grouse on Game Lands No. 43. One killed there weighed 2 pounds."—Game Protector Peter J. Filkosky, Kennett Square, November 1945.

---

"Hunting fell off considerably after the first day, probably because of bad weather. I believe this will be the first time in the history of hunting in this section that the total fox kill will exceed the rabbit kill. Trappers and dog owners have made heavy inroads on the fox population.

"The raccoon kill both among hunters and trappers will be large. The majority of raccoons have been large ones averaging around 15 pounds. I know of a number of 22 and 24 pound raccoons that have been taken.

"The deer season should be a good one with plenty of nice bucks being reported in nearly all the townships in this district. At this writing we have about six inches of snow."—Game Protector Fred Fisher, Montrose, November 1945.

---

"There were fewer hunters out during the small game season than at any time in my experience, and small game was scarce. Consequently the kill was very light and the hunters dissatisfied and full of complaints."—Game Protector W. C. Ackey, Weatherly, November 1945.

*(Continued from page 1)*

"Large numbers of foxes were killed d ing the small game season and many of th were not probated for bounty.

"I have talked with two hunters who s squirrels down from trees and then them stolen by foxes. It seems that foxes are getting tired of doing their o hunting so they wait for a hunter to sh a squirrel, then they grab and make with the game.

Although the hunters have complain about the shortage of rabbits and ringnecl I believe that the average hunter has fou plenty of game if he really gets out a hunts. This is proven by the poll of hunte Several I have checked have killed the lim of rabbits, and at the same time they con plain about the shortage."—Game Protect Carl C. Stainbrook, Washington, Novemb 1945.

---

"The 1945 hunting season certainly will down in history as very peculiar in mar ways. With the exception of the first da hunters were very limited. On the firs second and third Saturdays weather cond tions kept most of the hunters under cove Saturday usually is our big hunting da Some state the ringnecks fair in places. Rab bits in most sections are reported scarc Quite a few quail were seen but hunters di not shoot them. Squirrels, in the few squir rel sections we have, were plentiful."—Gam Protector Ralph A. Liphart, Homestead, No vember 1945.

---

"The first day of the small game seaso Acting Division Supervisor John Slautter back and I arrived at Mr. Al Clark's farm a 8:50. At 9 a. m. the shooting started. M Clark has about 10 acres in corn and whe the hunters came up through this field, abou 150 ringneck pheasants flew up from amon the corn and went into a small refuge nearb We did not see all of the birds that came ou of the field."—Game Protector William C Matthews, Rector, November 1945.

---

"Although most of the hunters are com plaining about the scarcity of game, every one seems to have killed his fair share o rabbits, squirrels and ringnecks. The aver age for the twenty-two hunters checked No vember 16 was 10.2 pieces of game pe hunter."—Game Protector Millard M. Crooks Somerset, November 1945.

# JULIA TAKES OVER

*(Continued from page 5)*

ouple of slats and then carefully turned he crate over on its side. Julia rolled out, udely awakened from blissful slumber.

If nothing else the tribe of *Mephitis* is daptable to all situations and Julia was no xception, for even as the man looked on, he rolled to her feet and let go both arrels. Even when shooting from the hip, s it were, her accuracy was faultless.

With a howl of chagrin the thoroughly aroused Mr. Stewart lifted his gun, took quick aim at Julia's retreating form and pulled the trigger. Net results: A loud click and a thin wisp of blue-gray smoke curling from the arm's nipple. And before another cap could be inserted into place Julia had disappeared into an old groundhog hole to resume, it is presumed, her rudely interrupted nap.

# NOTES FROM THE FIELD

"Small game in this district is scarce, specially rabbits. Pheasants are scarce but believe a fair supply of seed stock is left s they have excellent hiding places in the hick swamps. The hunters and dogs are nable to get in to them to shoot them. 'oxes seem numerous as in most other dis-ricts."—Game Protector William R. Over-urf, New Castle, November 1945.

---

"The small game season was disappointing o a number of hunters as small game was very scarce and the kill was light, except for squirrels and raccoons. A number of hunters eported killing both red and gray foxes while hunting for small game."—Game Pro-ector W. J. Brion, Kittanning, November 1945.

---

"Small game seemed to be spotty although he animals I checked all seemed in good condition. Hunters killed a large number of foxes while hunting. I do not know of a single quail being killed this season."—Game Protector E. J. Turner, York, November 1945.

---

"On November 14, while patrolling with Fish Warden Carl Wertz, I saw about 500 whistling swans flying around a small dam in Gallitzin Township. At the time there were also about 150 swans already on the water."—Game Protector Nicholas M. Ruha, Ebensburg, November 1945.

---

"On opening day of small game season only a fair amount of hunters were out and the kill was light. Eight gray foxes were reported killed the first day."—Game Protector Bruce W. Catherman, Indiana, November 1945.

---

"Small game as a whole over the division was rather scarce this year. The best kill in small game will probably be the wild turkey.

"Food conditions are not good, as practically all the nut bearing trees were frozen out during the spring. If we have deep snow this winter it will be necessary to do considerable feeding."—Field Division Supervisor William J. Davis, Huntingdon, November 1945.

---

"Squirrels and raccoons were abundant, rabbits spotty, pheasants scarce and deer plentiful all over the district. Reasons given by the hunters for the scarcity of game were the usual ones—the severe weather last winter, a wet spring, an abundance of predators and little or no stocking."—Game Protector Clair W. Dinger, Albion, November 1945.

---

"Pheasants, quail and rabbits were somewhat scarce. Squirrels were more abundant than last year, and the hunters made some good kills. The ruffed grouse continues to be scarce in most sections despite the abundance of food, such as wintergreen berries and wild grapes.

"The bear season was better than expected for the amount of hunters in the woods. Four bears were killed in the district. There were more hunters in the field than last season, but not enough to keep the bears moving or the kill would have been much larger.

"The deer season should be good. Bear hunters reported seeing a lot of deer with large antlers and also reported that the deer are larger than in past years. From all reports the field should be larger than in previous years, as everyone is talking of going deer hunting. A good kill this season may ease the complaints about the scarcity of small game."—Game Protector Floyd A. Beck, Venus, November 1945.

---

"Received more complaints from hunters on the scarcity of small game than I ever received before. The bag of small game was light through Jefferson County compared with past years. The first few days there were quite a number of hunters afield, but towards the latter part of the season hunters were quite scarce.

"Bear season was very successful in Jefferson County, the kill being the largest that I have ever known. There were about one-fourth more bear hunters afield the first day this year than last, and all bears were killed the first day except three or four."—Game Protector Lester J. Haney, Brookville, November 1945.

"The duck hunting in the Pymatuning area was a little above normal this fall. The Blair Bridge section of the refuge was hunted very hard and consistently. More Canada geese were killed this year than ever before. The Conneaut marsh had more duck shooting than it has had for several years because of the excessive rainfall and the flooded condition of the marsh area. Very few ducks were killed on grain fields this year as they did not seem to come to these fields to feed, proving that they prefer the feed found in the marsh if it is obtainable.

"There was an unusually large migration of whistling swans this year. On one occasion for six straight days the swans came over by the thousands all day long. In the late afternoon and evening the flocks would stop in the refuge for the night. For those seven nights there were thousands of the big white handsome birds in the remote sections and their constant gabbling made quite a din that could be heard almost anywhere in the refuge area. There were other days that the swans came in in great numbers and the last of the month we had a flock that stayed just back of Ford Island for four days. There were about 75 birds in this flock. It seems that the Fish and Wildlife Service will soon have a major problem if these birds continue to increase as they have in the last few years.

"We were able to collect an immature blue goose this month for the museum. This goose seemed lost from its migrating flock and stayed and fed on one of our wheat fields near the lake for four days."—Game Protector Raymond Sickles, Linesville, November 1945.

---

"We had less small game killed in Mifflin County than for many years, but the sportsmen did very little complaining. There isn't much game food. The sale of hunting licenses is far ahead of last year."—Game Protector Ralph E. McCoy, Lewistown, November 1945.

---

## FOXHUNTING IN CHESTER CO.

*(Continued from page 25)*

able to carry out such missions with little difficulty, and earned his chevrons through repeated action of this kind.

One day a visitor to the kennels in Chester County where the sergeant was serving as huntsman asked him to describe his most stirring experience in the Palestine campaign. He replied without hesitation: "Why, one day I was doing a bit of scouting among the sand dunes of the desert between our lines and the Turkish position when, all of a sudden, the most beautiful red fox you ever saw jumped up right in front of me!"

## CLUB NOTES

*(Continued from page 19)*

Chester County Rod and Gun Club will soon again list trapshooting as one of their top sports.

It is expected that the traps will be erected within two months. Clay pigeons will be shot over a new range. Trapshooting was tremendously popular with the club before the war and is expected to gain new heights of popularity in the near future.

## IS THE PEN MIGHTIER?

*(Continued from page 24)*

in the county schools. Sixty dollars was offered in prizes of $30, $20 and $10 for the three best essays. The Association provided $30 and Joseph Shreave, Dr. Robert Koehler and Pres. Charles Allen each donated $10.

The winners were: first, Richard M. Ott, Johnstown; second, Sidney Lee Brazil, Hastings; and third, William Kodrowsky, Johnstown.

In his essay the first prize winner pointed out that the main cause of accidents is pure carelessness on the part of the hunter. He said that carrying loaded guns in automobiles and loading guns in groups with muzzles pointed toward others are among the main reasons for death and injury while hunting.

The Big Spring Fish and Game Association of Newville distributed safety posters. Mr. George Rearick of the association addressed the Junior Sports Club of Newville on the subject "Handling Firearms Safely," and C. F. Beckner, Secretary of the Association addressed the high school assembly in conjunction with a hunt safely skit which was presented by members of the Junior Sports Club.

Placards reading "Don't Shoot Quail" and "Keep Off the Newly Planted Wheat" were distributed to farmers and landowners by the Littlestown Fish and Game Association.

The Ravers Gap Sportsmen's Association placed an exhibit at the local farm show. Large posters were placed in conspicuous places and small folders were distributed among the crowd.

Safety posters and pamphlets containing the "Ten Commandments of Safety" were distributed to schools, hardware stores and gas stations by the Wayne County Sportsmen's Association. This organization also presented a subscription to Game News to each high school in the county.

The club also financed the advertisement of the "Ten Commandments of Safety" in two Wayne County newspapers.

The Commission heartily appreciates the efforts of these various sportsmen's groups for their wholehearted cooperation in helping to educate the public to the importance of safety and to make hunters and youth groups accident conscious.

As we hear from other clubs, we will report what they have done to help put over this vitally important project.

## BACK ISSUES NEEDED

Back numbers of GAME NEWS, no matter how old, are badly needed to round out our files. At present we are anxious to secure extra copies of the July 1945 issue.

**"Oh, Mrs. Shniggleheimer . . . your husband's trying to sneak out to that Gun Club again!"**

## THE 20TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE

*(Continued from page 29)*

burg, Pa.; Oscar A. Becker, West Reading, Pa.; E. J. Leap, Hyndman, Pa.; J. H. Coffman, York, Pa.; John J. Foley, Connellsville, Pa.; H. R. Johnson, Uniontown, Pa.; Robert E. Elliott, Franklin, Pa.; Hope Larish, Benton, Pa.; Armor Bordner, Lebanon, Pa.; Frank I. Rutledge, Pittsburgh, Pa.; E. Allen Rehr, Oil City, Pa.; Frank Thomas, Philadelphia, Pa.

*The Allegheny County Sportsmen's League will honor its founder, Charley Hobson, at a testimonial and anniversary banquet on Tuesday, February 19, the date the club was organized 21 years ago. The League now includes 85 clubs of approximately 11,000 members.*

## DR. SUTTON ILL

Dr. George M. Sutton, former Chief of the Division of Education and Research of the Commission and nationally known artist, author and lecturer, who left the service a number of years ago to become Curator of Birds at Cornell University, and who has been serving as a Major in the Army Air Forces for the past several years, has been confined to quarters for several months at 405 Aurixa Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan. His many friends among the Commission and the sportsmen wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

## DR. APGAR IN TEACHING POST

Dr. Charles S. Apgar, Harrisburg R. D. 3, former wildlife photographer of the Division of Education and Research of the Commission, recently acquired a position on the faculty of Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, Pa., where he is Professor of Biology. He left the Commission's service to carry on experimental research work at the Cornell University Morphologocial Station near Peekskill on the Hudson and at the conclusion of that work, which lasted four years, became a civilian administrator at the Indiantown Gap Military Reservation where he served until the war ended.

## NERVES AND THE SHOTGUN

*(Continued from page 18)*

trol and he is ready to shoot, but he doesn't give his nerves a chance to tighten nor his muscles to freeze. The repeated moving of the loosely-held gun insures muscular and nervous coordination when the bird gets up, and consequently he shoots straighter—and faster,

Worry can cause you to miss and trying too hard can play hob with your shooting. Go into a shooting slump, miss and miss until it seems you never will connect again. Then, just when you're on the verge of taking up golf and you're dragging back to the car tired and dejected, with your mind a thousand miles from hunting, a bird flushes. When happens? Your gun comes up as smooth as the swing of a pendulum and stops him cold.

The jinx is broken. You say to yourself, "I *can* hit 'em," and you do! Your shooting slump is over—and it is over because you forgot to try hard. Your coordination was perfect.

There's a lot to know about shooting a shotgun, but any man with fair eyesight, an understanding of the fundamentals and good nervous reaction is a long way toward being a fine game shot.

## WHY OWN A BIRD DOG?

*(Continued from page 18)*

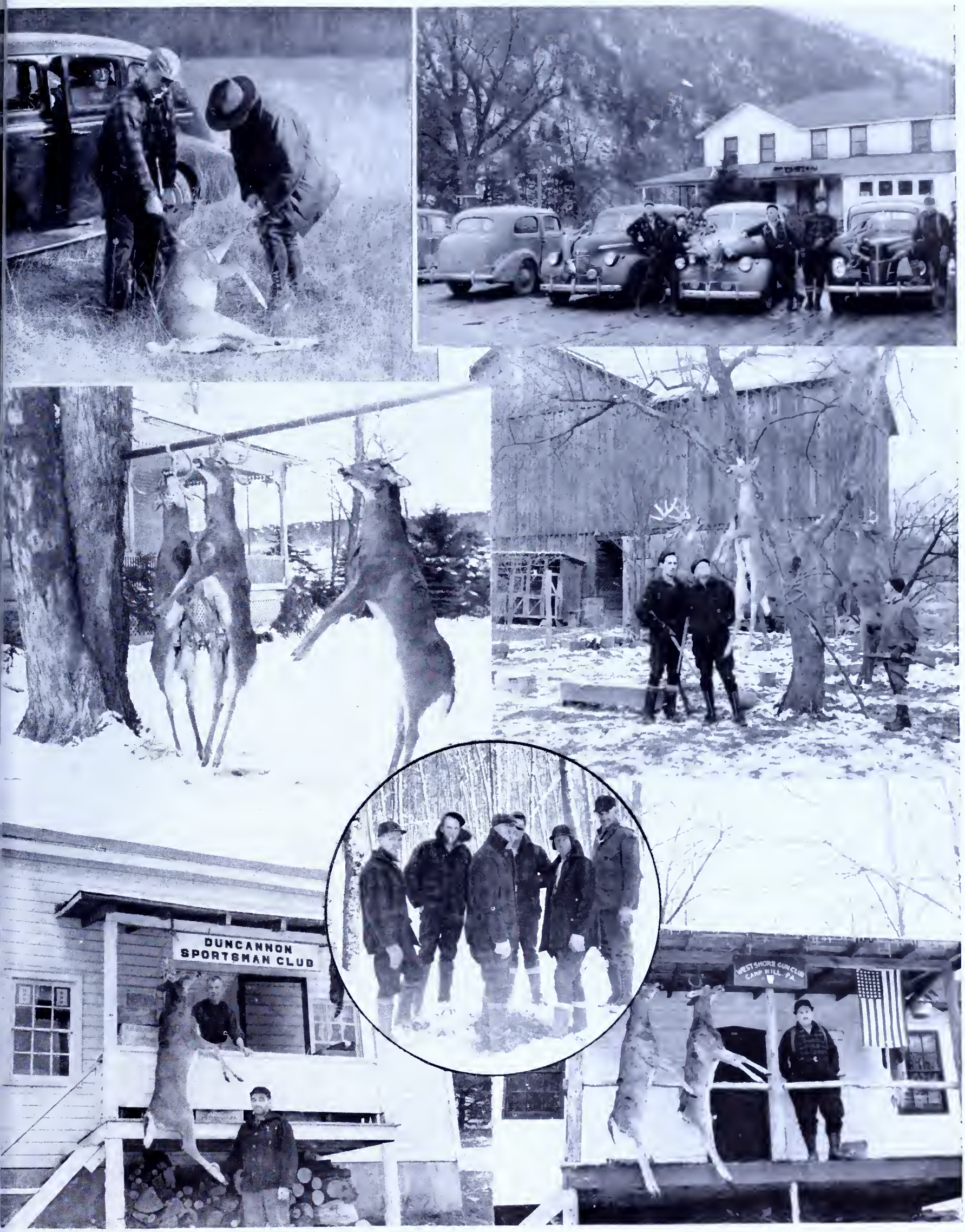
the process by which he possesses a fine, well trained dog is very slow and many times uncertain. Grouse, pheasant or quail hunting without a dog is just not bird hunting at all. At the present time any man who knows and loves bird shooting, if given a choice would rather go into the autumn covers without his gun than without his dogs. Even in the market hunting days, which we would like to forget, the dog was a very necessary part of his outfit.

The past few years have seen the upland gunner become conscious of dog character. In the woods and fields the dog has become the hunter's close associate and partner, providing all the companionship that good men require. People fail to realize the feeling that exists between the man and his dog when they learn to hunt together. Even though a hunter has friends he dearly loves to be with and with whom he hunts with pride, he does not stay home on a clear crisp day for the lack of human companionship. Hunting with a good dog during the open season is the very essence of the fine sport and because the season lasts only a month many men continue to follow game with their dogs, freely contented to watch the work and continuous training with no sense of loss because the gun is left at home.

The growing interest in bird dogs must be regarded as beneficial to game conservation. The more attention given to owning better dogs the more interest is created to have more birds on which to work them. Then during open seasons a well trained dog forced to retrieve will almost entirely eliminate the leaving of dead or wounded game in the woods and fields.

Write us of your dog problems and we shall make every effort possible to help you with them.

**The photos opposite were taken throughout the state during the past deer season by W. L. R. Drake.**


DUNCANNON
SPORTSMAN CLUB
WEST SHORE GUN CLUB
CAMP HILL, PA

# NOTICE

## TO READERS

As of July 1, 1946, the subscription fee for Game News will be $1.00 for one year, $1.50 for two years and $2.00 for three years, for everyone, residents and non-residents, with a special group rate of $.50 for all sportsmen's organizations that wish to include the magazine as a part of their membership fees, provided such subscriptions are submitted in lots of ten or more.

The purpose of the increased fee is to enable the Commission to provide better paper, better text, and better illustrations and more adequately sustain the magazine financially. You as a reader will benefit tremendously as a result, and we hope you will cooperate.

# PENNSYLVANIA Game News

Pennsylvania State Library
DOCUMENTS SECTION

February 1946

Ten Cents

38.34
1.6

# PENNSYLVANIA GAME NEWS

## The PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION, HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA


COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

EDWARD MARTIN, GOVERNOR

★

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

ROSS L. LEFFLER, *President* ..... Pittsburgh
ROBERT LAMBERTON, *Vice-President* ..... Franklin
COL. NICHOLAS BIDDLE ..... Bethayres
G. I. PHILLIPS ..... Alexandria
HAROLD MOLTZ ..... Williamsport
DR. H. E. KILGUS ..... Brockway
JOHN C. HERMAN ..... Dauphin
B. K. WILLIAMS ..... East Stroudsburg

Administrative Office

SETH GORDON ..... *Executive Director*
R. A. MCCACHRAN ..... *Assistant Director*

DIVISION OF LANDS

W. Gard. Conklin ..... *Chief*

DIVISION OF ACCOUNTING & BUDGET

N. E. Slaybaugh ..... *Comptroller*

DIVISION OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

Leo A. Luttringer, Jr. ..... *Chief*
*Editor*, PENNSYLVANIA GAME NEWS

TRAINING

W. M. Cramer ..... *Supt. Training School*

Bureau of Field Operations

DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

W. C. Shaffer ..... *Chief*

DIVISION OF LAND MANAGEMENT

James N. Morton ..... *Chief*

DIVISION OF RESEARCH
(Vacancy)

PROPAGATION & DISTRIBUTION

Earl S. Greenwood ..... *Acting*

FIELD DIVISION SUPERVISORS

DIVISION "A"—M. J. Golden, 602 Penn Ave., West Reading, Pa.,
Berks, Bucks, Chester, Dauphin, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, York.

DIVISION "B"—Jay C. Gilford, Wyoming Ave. and Welles St., Forty Fort, Pa.
Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming.

DIVISION "C"—Thomas F. Bell, 352 E. 3rd St., Williamsport, Pa.
Bradford, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga, Union.

DIVISION "D"—William J. Davis, 327 Penn St., Huntingdon, Pa.
Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry.

DIVISION "E"—M. E. Sherman, 1 E. Du Bois Ave., Du Bois, Pa.
Cameron, Center, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, Potter

DIVISION "F"—Hayes T. Englert, 14 W. 1st St., 2d Floor, S. S. Oil City, Pa.
Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, Warren.

DIVISION "G"—Rollin Heffelfinger, 405 Main St., 2d Floor, McClellan Bldg., Irwin, Pa.
Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, Westmoreland.


## HOW TO SUBSCRIBE


RATES—$0.50 per year to residents of Pennsylvania, regardless of address. $1.00 per year for Non-Residents of Pennsylvania. (Out-of-State, District of Columbia Canadian or Foreign.) Club rates are available to organizations presenting 10 or more subscriptions in a single order. Remittances by check or money order to be made payable to the Department of Revenue, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. CASH FORWARDED AT SENDER'S RISK. STAMPS NOT ACCEPTED. Your local Game Protector, County Treasurer or other Hunting License Issuing Agent will take your subscription; or you may forward it direct to the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.

Please report all changes of address promptly, sending both your old and new addresses.

Please address all communications to the Editorial Office.

Publication office, Cameron and Kelker Sts., Harrisburg, Pa.

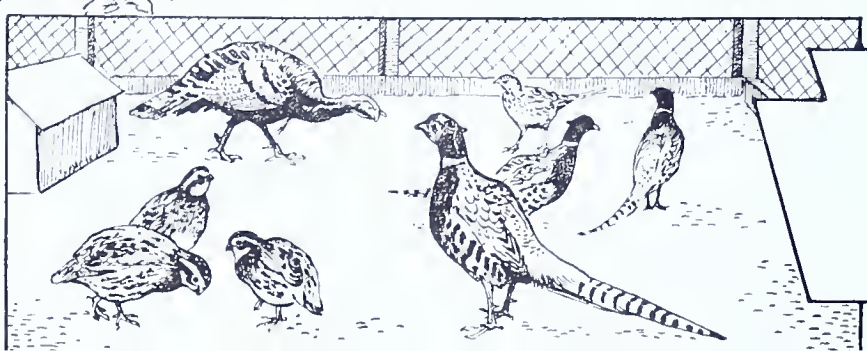
Executive and editorial office, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.

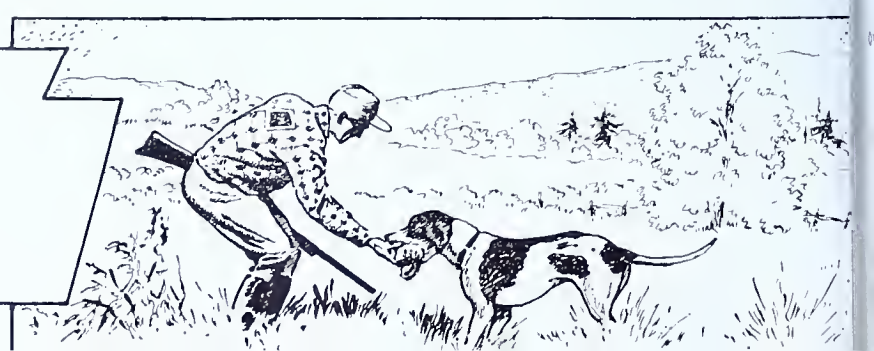
Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, under Act of March 3, 1879.

Permission to reprint will be granted provided proper credit is given.

Mailed in conformity with P.O.D. Order No. 19687.

**Effective July 1, 1946, the subscription fee will be increased to $1.00 for one year, $1.50 for two years, and $2.00 for three years for everyone, residents and non-residents, with a special rate of 50 cents for sportsmen's organizations that desire to include subscriptions as a part of their annual dues.**



OL. XVI, NO. 11

# EDITORIAL

February, 1946

## IN THIS ISSUE

**Winter in the Poconos**
By Jack Anderson

★

**Past, Present and Future of the Pymatuning**
By William C. Grimm

★

**Training School to Reopen**

★

**Transactions of the Commission Meeting**

★

**The Comstock Lion**

★

**Well, What's Wrong**
By Jacob Bates Abbott

★

**Friendly Enemies**
By Lewis E. Potts

★

**Bats**
By Caroline A. Heppenstall

★

**Rifle Fit Counts, Too!**
By Ted Trueblood

★

**Selecting A Pup**
By Herbert Kendrick

★

Cover by Jacob Bates Abbott

☆ ☆ ☆

## UNDESIRABLE LEGISLATION

Hunters! Do you want to keep your guns without a lot of red tape? Then help kill Senate Bill 1678. This Bill provides that all firearms of more than 25 caliber be registered with the F. B. I. and imposes a penalty of $2,000 or one year imprisonment or both for failure to comply.

The excuse for its introduction is the weak one of protecting the public from misuse of firearms and from unlawful acts. But like every law of this kind, it would protect nobody and only do more harm than good. The criminals pay no attention to laws. The only losers would be the honest American citizens.

Senate Bill 1678 is a threat to our freedom. It must not pass. Hunters, as American citizens, should do everything in their power to see that it does not pass. They should write their Senators and Representatives at once, asking them to vote against it.

Write today. Tell the men who represent you in Washington that you don't want any freedom-crippling laws; you don't want Senate Bill 1678!

Many of our young men have died to keep this country a democracy.

We must not break the faith.

☆ ☆ ☆

## A REMINDER

When we announced the new subscription rates to GAME NEWS last month we neglected to mention that the group rate of 50 cents for sportsmen's associations applies only *in cases where ten or more subscriptions are submitted at a time*, the same as heretofore; and that *if clubs do not desire to make it a part of their regular membership fees, they can merely collect the additional fee from those members who desire the* NEWS *when the dues are paid.*

So far we have nothing but the most favorable comment on the new rates and we hope that all our readers will support the magazine when they become effective on July 1, 1946.

☆ ☆ ☆

**Winter Scene between Emporium and Smethport, McKean County.**
Photo by W. L. R. Drake.

# WINTER IN THE POCONOS

## By Jack Anderson

### Illustrations by Jacob Bates Abbott

HE winds came—those lonely, wierdly-whistling winter winds, sharp and bleak ıd sad-complaining. The trees of the forest vayed monotonously, endlessly. On the ›rtheast horizon, bulging purple-black ouds mustered into ominous legion, rolling ver and over upon themselves, then swept ›wn, driving in thick curtains of snow.

"Doggone!" I muttered to the lonesome alls of my cabin. "Winter—and no mis-ke!"

Bitter winds raged then for days, gushing with load after load of snow. These winds ›wled a million tunes; yet always they were e same, screeching, screaming, rasping; ıd always they mysteriously sang to deso-tion—and to me. And when the winds ed, the snow remained: vast white plains the open, with multi-shaped drifts ıddled at the edges of clearings.

With the snow, came silence—deep, tense lence. I left the cabin and walked into the eath-quiet of the forest. Evergreens were eighted down with powdery snow; hard-oods stood like frozen sticks, their narrow ms silver-mantled. There was no move-ent. Snow had completely muffled the ›ices of things.

I loved my little backwoods cabin at osey Wood, in the heart of northeastern ennsylvania's Pocono mountains; loved the eauty of it, the peace. But this snow-lence, this winter-death, was deeper than ›rest silence had been before; it summoned ctures of cold, deserted nests of birds, ıunt wildlife retreating weakly to sheltered aces. And it pressed upon my heart.

That is why Davey Krauss seemed so erry from the moment he burst into the ıbin and announced, "It's colder'n hell out-de! Let's get a good blaze going in here efore my skin freezes fast to my long andles!"

He was tall, with cheeks like dried apples, rinkled especially at the corners of his outh. Some wrinkles were from laughing ; life, others from beating back the weather. He had twinkling brown eyes and a rather sharp, inquisitive nose. There was an elusive expression on his face; ideas came suddenly, and as suddenly, went; and most often he looked like the cat who swallowed the canary.

He wore a heavy woolen coat of traditional red, corduroy pants stuffed into leather boots. His pockets bulged. Later on, I discovered the bulging was produced by pocket knives, matches, packages of chewing tobacco, string, nails—just about anything carried as usual line in a general store.

He regarded the interior of the cabin with silence, and apparent indifference.

The cabin had been originally well-built. But green lumber had gone into the making, and what had been air-tight in September was leaky in the seams this December. The Mosey Wood project was a Girl Scout adventure, and as one of the pioneer caretakers, I had expected living quarters to be somewhat primitive. The stove, also, had weak points. It was a log-type stove, and could not be banked for the night.

Davey said nothing. That is, nothing about the cabin. We talked about hunting and fishing and woodcraft, and then I departed on my trapline.

I was trapping predators off the adjoining game preserve (with state approval by written permit), a sideline which fitted nicely into the picture as caretaker. I ran a trapline of several miles. On many occasions, I carried with me blocks of salt and bags of grain-feed to establish feeding-grounds for deer and grouse, the district's principal game.

The most numerous of the predators were weasels. I trapped considerable numbers of these tiny hunters—both white and brown, but oddly enough, never an animal in process of winter metamorphosis. These animals ranged the swamps and creek bottoms. Here, also, tracks of snowshoe hares were most numerous.

This day, however, two meek opossums sat in the traps, and nothing more. So I was rather weary upon arrival at the cabin. Some delightful cooking odors were in the air. Also, strangely enough, I heard the steady, solid banging of a hammer.

"What the dickens—"

I swung open the door. Davey kneeled on the floor, and looked up, grinning. A stack of orange-crate wood stood beside him. He turned back to his work without a word. He slipped long pieces of orange-crate wood into the cracks of the floor, then beat them down. When wedged tight, he planed these boards level with the floor.

"Almost finished!" he called cheerily. "Too much wind here for me!"

I grinned, remembered that look of *apparent* indifference. Then I pursued those cooking odors. The trail led to the log stove. Here, I lifted the lid of a pot. Wisps of warm steam, laden with flavors of beef and turnips, hugged the nostrils. I sighed, remembering my can of beans.

We ate greedily of Davey's concoction, then spent the remainder of the day sawing, and chopping wood. About four-thirty, day

*(Continued on page 28)*

Photo by C. Gordon Krieble

"Honkers" taking off.

# THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE, of the PYMATUNING FROM THE WATERFOWL STANDPOINT

## By William C. Grimm

WHEN the migratory waterfowl refuge was created at Pymatuning Lake it was the "pride and joy" of both the Game Commission and of Pennsylvania sportsmen. It was our first big adventure into the field of waterfowl conservation and it held great promises. It was created at a time when the waterfowl population of North America seemed to be in a very serious state of affairs. Population figures had dwindled to an alarming low and a great drought was searing what was then left of a large part of the ducks' breeding grounds. The immediate response of the wildfowl to the newly created water area was indeed most gratifying and some looked forward to the day when the Pymatuning would become one of the "greatest duck ponds in America." Ducks didn't only stop to rest and feed at the Pymatuning—they nested there in most unusual numbers and many of the nesting species actually provided new records in the annals of Ornithology!

The old Pymatuning Swamp was for years the mecca of naturalists, so the original composition of its flora and fauna are pretty well known. Sutton (1928) gives us the following description. "Pymatuning, a wooded bog of considerable local fame, forms a crescent roughly somewhat over fifteen miles in length, and varying in width (usually about a mile, and not exceeding three miles) extending from Adamsville northward, past Hartstown and Shermansville almost to Linesville, and thence northwest and west to the west of Espyville, and in a narrow and variable belt to Westford, and farther south. The swampy area is not, of course, always clearly defined, and there are numerous indentations of farming land entering the Swamp, as well as ramifications of the low, wet bogs through the surrounding drier country."

That portion of the Pymatuning Lake which the refuge area now occupies was quite largely wooded swamp, tamarack bog, and alder thicket. Through this flowed the Shenango River, a rather sluggish swamp stream whose channel was often more or less choked by the growth of aquatic vegetation.

Ducks—a few of them—were always present in the Pymatuning but they were limited in numbers and of a comparatively few species. Most of Sutton's duck records were obtained from Conneaut Lake and neighboring marsh areas. Undoubtedly some migrants sought the food available in the Shenango River channel and there were former records of black ducks and pintails being seen in winter. Of the species which nested there Sutton lists only the mallard as "common." Wood ducks were "locally common." Black ducks were "rare." Undoubtedly the old Pymatuning Swamp afforded a bit of sport to local wildfowlers, particularly during the periods of migration but it was far from being a "mecca for ducks."

In the process of making way for the reservoir the swamp was cleared and the brush piled and burned. When the gate of the upper dam was closed on December 5, 1933 the waters of the Shenango began to back up and gradually covered the cleared alder thicket and the stumps of the forest trees. The plants which formerly thrived the channel of the river—*Anacharis, Cer tophyilum,* and various species of *Potamog ton*—eventually spread over the new are of open water wherever the depth was too great. Within a few years vast be of these plants appeared in the new created lake. In the shallow waters abo the shore appeared dense stands of catt and bur-reed while on the seepage are back from the water's edge grew excelle stands of smartweeds *(Polygonum)* a other semi-aquatic plants. Thus the Pym tuning rapidly converted itself into an tractive area for the ducks. All around edge were grassy or weedy fields, fencero *clumps* of shrubs, stands of cattail and sed All of this provided an excellent variety ideal nesting cover and the ducks took a vantage of it. Within a year or two Pym tuning became renowned for its breedi records. Some of them were truly ama ing!

Undoubtedly a combination of fact entered into that initial success at the Pym tuning. Its creation came about just at time when a prolonged series of droug years had all but devastated a vast porti of the great waterfowl breeding groun in the interior of the Northwest. Perha that was the stroke of circumstance; t outstanding single factor. At least the re ords prove that such unusual events to place as the nesting of baldpates, redhea ring-necked ducks, and ruddy ducks at t Pymatuning in 1936. For several years af its establishment, mallards, black ducks, a blue-winged teal nested commonly in t

ea and each year a number of nests of the ntail, gadwall, and shoveller were found. me extraordinarily ornithological records ere made at the Pymatuning but the aver- e fellow who hunts ducks isn't partic- arly interested in ornithological records. et's see where he comes in.

The ducks which are *produced* at the ymatuning afford a limited amount of early ooting before the big flights of northern ucks come in but it is the tide of the igration which provides most of the sport. these travellers are to stay around awhile ey must be provided with resting and eding areas and that is just where the big dvantage of the Pymatuning as a refuge rea comes in. During those early years ousands, if not tens of thousands, of flight ucks came into the area. During October ays it was not at all unusual to see vast ocks of mallards, black ducks, baldpates, intails, and blue-winged and green-winged al. These ducks would naturally concen- ate within the refuge but individuals and roups would constantly be going back and rth either to other marsh areas or to eding grounds on the recently harvested elds. At any rate the water, the food, nd the sanctuary they found here attracted ore migrating waterfowl than had been een in this locality before.

What happened at the Pymatuning during he years which followed is another story. ery good waterfowl habitat had been reated, the results had been most gratify- ng, all seemed to be well with the design f things as they were. But as the years assed, a comparatively few of them, indeed, t became evident that something was going rrong. Each passing year saw fewer and ewer ducks nesting at the Pymatuning and ven the number of migrants utilizing the rea seemed to be falling off. The fact ould not be disputed. Let us see what rought this about. First, let us consider he water area itself. In the late summer f 1944 a survey of the area was made by scientists of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and personnel of the Game Commission. They found very little of the former vegetation left in the lake. The formerly extensive beds of aquatic plants—the wildfowl food plants—were gone. Not that the ducks had eaten all of it, nor the muskrats either, for such would have been an impossibility considering their former extent and abundance. Evidently lack of sunlight was the cause! Lack of sunlight due to the turbidity of the water had caused the loss of the valuable aquatic food plants. Two factors were involved in bringing about the turbidity of the water, wave action—and carp.

Obviously little hope can be entertained of immediately restoring the aquatic food plants in the area. Every effort was made to exclude the carp from the upper reservoir but undoubtedly there were carp in all portions of the channel of the Shenango and the brood stock was present from the very beginning. Total elimination of the carp population from the area is hardly feasible though control measures may well be applied. But even so the problem will not be solved. Wave action will continue to stir up the muck and the particles of humus and tend to keep the waters murky, perhaps for a long time to come.

Now let us turn to the adjacent land area and see what has been happening there. It is evident that changes have come about and they were *not* changes which contribute to good waterfowl habitat. The scheme of Nature is to clothe the land with the climax vegetation. Old fields do not remain old fields grown up in grass or weeds but by a series of plant successions she inexorably strives to produce the climax type. The fields here, in which many ducks once nested, have gradually been taken over by shrubs and trees such as sumachs, aspens, fire cherry, elm, etc. Other areas were planted with spruce, Japanese larch, and pine as a *reforestation project* before the area was made into a waterfowl refuge. At the present time there are very few grassy areas surrounding the refuge lake and none of any considerable size. During the early years the ducks commonly built their nests in the field areas, often at a considerable distance from the shore. Many nests were placed in *clumps* of shrubs or at the bases of the small evergreens but they were still predominantly grassy areas. Such areas now scarcely exist. The fields which were planted with pines are now pine plantations with practically nothing but pine needles beneath; the others are for most part impenetrable thickets. Neither even remotely resemble duck nesting cover.

An answer to the duck food problem seems possible in the light of an experiment conducted on the area during the summer of 1945. In the early summer the water level was lowered about 12 inches at the dam and a considerable expanse of mud flat was exposed. Portions of the area were then seeded with wild duck millet *(Echinochloa pungens)* and smartweeds *(Polygonum sp.)* and the results were most promising. When the water level was raised again in the fall after the plants had matured the response of the ducks was almost immediate. It appears that following this procedure in the future, with additional and more extensive planting, will really bring the ducks into the Pymatuning again.

Perhaps the big nesting days are over at the Pymatuning, we may never again see such a number of unusual nesting species. But the Pymatuning can still serve its purpose as a waterfowl refuge. By checking the ecological progression of shoreline areas and restoring grassy openings the amount of desirable nesting cover can be greatly increased and we may reasonably expect to *produce* more mallards and black ducks *on the area.* This locally reared stock should provide a certain amount of local hunting before the big flights come in. Then, with

*(Continued on page 27)*

Photo by W. L. R. Drake.

**Little hope can be entertained of immediately restoring the aquatic food plants in the area.**

The main building at the school contains "dorms," classrooms, kitchen, dining room, living room, etc.

# TRAINING SCHOOL TO REOPEN

AFTER several years of the hustle and bustle and tense, all-out program of a Nation at war, Pennsylvanians are preparing for the relaxation of outdoor recreation. The fields, farms, hills, lakes, streams, and forests of the Keystone State are going to look mighty good to thousands of returning veterans who have had a chance for several years in most cases to look at the scenery in other parts of the world. As the lady said when she kissed the cow, "Every one to his own taste," so these boys tell us that they prefer the variety of scenery, climate, and wild creatures which Pennsylvania offers.

The Game Commission is indeed thankful to a Divine Providence that not one of its employes was called upon to pay the supreme sacrifice in the most dreadful war in World History. Our Honor Roll of those who served Uncle Sam during the war period includes 1 Member of the Commission, 48 salaried field officers, 2 per diem field officers, 3 Research field men, 1 surveyor, 9 Game Farm employes, 10 Harrisburg Office employes—74 men—and 1 Field Division Office stenographer who enlisted in the WACS, or a grand total of 75 employes.

Many returning veterans and Deputy Game Protectors are now interested in becoming Game Protectors. Conservation programs will be more popular than ever before, and a greater interest is already being shown in employment in the wildlife management field.

In 1936 the Commission inaugurated a permanent Training School for the selection and training of salaried field personnel. This vocational training plan is known as an approved merit system. Three student classes were enrolled and graduated prior to the time the war compelled the Commission to close the school in March, 1942. When public announcement concerning the competitive examination for the first training class was made in May, 1936, 2255 inquiries were received from all parts of the Commonwealth. Of those inquiring for information, 948 filed formal applications for admission, and 428 men from all walks of life qualified to take the examination on June 20, 1936. Thirty-five student officers were selected, and 27 of these men were graduated on March 15, 1937.

The second class was chosen by the same method in the spring of 1937. Only 140 applications were received, of which number 79 qualified to participate in the examination. Seventy-one actually appeared for the test on June 9, 1937, and 28 successfully passed the written and rigid physical examinations and entered the school on June 20th. Twenty-five members of this group were graduated from the school on March 15, 1938.

By 1941 additional vacancies had occurred for various reasons, and the third student class was enrolled. There were 2356 printed brochures mailed in response to inquiries concerning the school. Three hundred seventy formal applications were filed, and of this number 306 qualified for the examinations; 239 actually appeared for the tests, and 28 men were selected following written, oral interview, and physical examinations to begin their training course on June 7, 1941. Because of the passage of the Selective Service Law, and the beginning of World War II on December 7, 1941, it was necessary to secure draft deferment for these men so that they might complete their training and thus be eligible for permanent employment by the Commission upon their return to civilian life. Twenty-four men were graduated on February 28, 1942. The school was then closed for the duration of the war. Of the total of 76 graduate Game Protectors, 8 have resigned to accept other employment. Forty-three men out of 69 served in the military forces, one of these men having resigned since his return from the Army. Most of the men were either commissioned or non-commissioned officers.

In accordance with the provisions of the State Civil Service Law, and in all fairne to the returning G.I.'s, the Commission h waited until six months after hostiliti ceased to reopen the school. There hav been a number of deaths, retirements, ar resignations during the past few years, ar the Commission has decided to enroll th fourth student class to fill the gaps in th ranks.

The next class will consist of twenty-fiv students, selected on a State-wide basi Those qualifying in a preliminary mann will be advised of their eligibility to take competitive written examination to be give at the Commission's headquarters at Harris burg, covering the following subjects: Penn sylvania Geography, Pennsylvania Histo and Civics, Mathematics, English, Natur History, Spelling, and Game, Fish and Fore Laws of Pennsylvania.

Oral interviews will also be given tho who successfully pass the written tests. Th twenty-five men at the top of the list i these two examinations will be given a rigi physical examination by a registered phys cian appointed by the Commission, an will be subject also to a moral and characte investigation before final selection.

Students selected for training will be com missioned as Deputy Game Protectors, an receive specialized training at the Trainin School seven miles northwest of Brockwa The course, which includes practical fiel work, will last one year.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission wa the first Conservation Department in th United States to establish a vocational Train ing School for developing field personne and it has more than proved its worth i turning out high-class, well-trained officer who are capable of coping with the problem of game protection, game management, an all the other phases of conservation work

The Training School is an approved insti tution for the training of veterans under th G.I. Bill of Rights. Veterans will receive a exception in the maximum age limit, an will be given examination credits.

he following general qualifications and ulations will apply to the 1946 class:

ESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS—Each applicant l have been a *bona fide resident* of the Comwealth of Pennsylvania for a period of not than three (3) years preceding the date of lication. Any applicant who can qualify as esidence, but is absent from the State because military service, college attendance, etc., and has not transferred his residence to another te will be considered a resident of Pennsylia.

GE REQUIREMENTS—All applicants shall e passed their twenty-third (23d) birthday on before January 1, 1946, and shall not have sed their thirty-fifth (35th) birthday prior to t date. Certified copy of birth certificate shall filed with the application.

*XCEPTIONS:*

(a) All veterans with at least ninety (90) ays of service, who entered the armed forces ubsequent to September 16, 1940, who have een honorably discharged from the armed orces of the United States, or released under onorable conditions, shall be eligible provided hey had not passed their thirty-fifth (35th) irthday prior to said induction.

(b) Deputy Game Protectors having three 3) or more years of meritorious service will e granted an allowance of five (5) years in xcess of the maximum age, provided, howver, that the applicant shall not have passed is fortieth (40th) birthday prior to January , 1946.

(c) Deputy Game Protectors having at least ighteen (18) months of continuous meritorious ervice as an Acting District Game Protector mmediately prior to January 1, 1946, will be ranted an allowance of seven (7) years in xcess of the maximum age, provided, howver, that the applicant shall not have passed is forty-second (42d) birthday prior to January , 1946.

(d) Deputy Game Protectors having at least hirty-six (36) months of continuous meritorious ervice as an Acting District Game Protector mmediately prior to January 1, 1946, will be ranted an allowance of ten (10) years in exess of the maximum age, provided, however, hat the applicant shall not have passed his orty-fifth (45th) birthday prior to January 1, 1946.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE REQUIRED—Each plicant shall be required to submit satisfacry proof that he has had a minimum of five ) years of practical experience in hunting or pping, or has completed a minimum recognized urse of study of two (2) years in forestry or ldlife management (or the two combined) in educational institution, plus two (2) or more ars of practical experience in hunting or trapng.

HEIGHT REQUIREMENTS—The minimum shall five feet, eight inches (5′ 8″) taken in stocking et, the maximum to be in relative body proortions.

*XCEPTIONS:*

Deputy Game Protectors having three (3) or ore years of meritorious service and Deputy ame Protectors having eighteen (18) or more onths of continuous meritorious service as Acting District Game Protector immediately ior to January 1, 1946, will be granted an alwance of one inch (1″) in the minimum height quirement, provided, however, that the applint shall not be less than five feet seven inches ′ 7″) taken in stocking feet.

WEIGHT REQUIREMENTS—The minimum eight shall be one hundred forty (140) pounds ripped of all clothing. The maximum shall be o hundred (200) pounds stripped of all clothg up to six feet (6′) in height, but an addional allowance of ten (10) pounds will be made the applicant is more than six feet (6′) in eight.

PHYSICAL QUALIFICATIONS—Each applicant all be subject to a rigid physical examination d shall be free from all physical defects inuding the shortage or loss of a member of the dy. A preliminary physical examination, conucted by a registered physician of this State, all be made a part of the application, the cost which shall be borne by the applicant. The al physical examination shall be made by a gistered physician, appointed by the Commission or its agent, the cost of which shall be borne by the Commission.

VISION TEST—Before any applicant shall be admitted to the School he shall be able to pass a 20/30 vision, and color test without glasses.

EXAMINATIONS—Applicants who have been advised that they are eligible to compete in the written and oral examinations at Harrisburg shall report at the designated place and time. Any applicant who does not attain a minimum of seventy per centum (70%) in the written examination shall be ineligible for further consideration in connection with the class being enrolled. Applicants securing a minimum of at least seventy per centum (70%) in the written test will be eligible for the oral interview. The applicant is personally required to pay all transportation or other costs involved. Illness, unavoidable nonattendance, or tardiness will not be sufficient excuse for participating in a similar examination at a later date, on the basis of the original application. Examination gradings, or comparable averages, will not be published. Any competitor, or a person authorized by him in writing, shall have access to a review of his examination papers, at the offices of the Commission at Harrisburg only, for a period of three (3) months, following the date of examination.

EXAMINATION CREDITS—Any veteran with at least ninety (90) days of service, who has been honorably discharged from the armed forces of the United States, or released under honorable conditions shall be entitled to receive an additional credit of twenty (20) points out of a possible total of two hundred and eighty (280) points in the written mental examination.

Any veteran with at least ninety (90) days of service, who has been honorably discharged from the armed forces of the United States, or released under honorable conditions, who has also had three (3) or more years of satisfactory service with the Commission as a Deputy Game Protector in general enforcement or land management work shall be entitled to receive an additional five (5) points, or a grand total of twenty-five (25) points out of a possible total of two hundred and eighty (280) points in the written mental examination.

Any Deputy Game Protector who shall have had three (3) or more years of satisfactory service with the Commission in general enforcement or land management work, or a Deputy who has served continuously in the capacity of a full-time Acting District Game Protector for eighteen (18) months or longer, prior to January 1, 1946, shall be entitled to receive an additional credit of twenty (20) points out of a possible total of two hundred and eighty (280) points in the written mental examination.

RATES OF COMPENSATION—Students selected for appointment to the Training School shall be paid at the following rates during the entire school training period:

Single Man—$75.00 per month.

Married Man, living with his spouse—$90.00 per month.

Married Man, living with his spouse, with one dependent child under eighteen (18) years of age—$100.00 per month.

Married Man, living with his spouse, with two or more dependent children under eighteen (18) years of age—$110.00 per month.

Any student who fails to pass satisfactorily the first thirty (30) days of training shall receive no compensation.

*EXCEPTIONS:*

Any full-time Acting District Game Protector who has had eighteen (18) months or more service prior to January 1, 1946, shall be paid at the following rates during the entire school training period:

Married Man, living with his spouse—$100.00 per month.

Married Man, living with his spouse, with one dependent child under eighteen (18) years of age—$110.00 per month.

*(Continued on page 32)*

Photo by Dr. Chas. S. Apgar.

Chow time.

Photo by W. L. R. Drake

# TRANSACTIONS OF THE COMMISSION MEETING

## JANUARY 10, 1946

ROSS L. LEFFLER, Pittsburgh, and Robert Lamberton, Franklin, were re-elected President and Vice-President respectively of the Game Commission at its regular annual meeting in Harrisburg on January 10. All other members were present including Nicholas Biddle, Bethayres; G. I. Phillips, Alexandria; Harold Moltz, Williamsport; H. E. Kilgus, Brockway; John C. Herman, Dauphin; and B. K. Williams, East Stroudsburg, Commissioner Williams having been appointed under date of October 8, 1945 to succeed Dr. Carl B. Rosenkrans, deceased.

The Commission was supplied with field estimates of game killed, hunting accidents, etc., which information was published in last month's issue. It was also furnished preliminary figures on hunting licenses sold which indicated that approximately 647,269 resident and 13,031 non-resident, or a total of 660,300 were issued, about 30,000 of which were issued free to persons in the military service.

The Commission also heard brief reports from each of its staff officers on accomplishments made during 1945, a digest of which will appear at the end of these proceedings.

Major items considered at the meeting are as follows:

*Rights-of-way* were granted to—

(a) the Pa. Power and Light Company, Allentown, to construct and maintain an electric line across Game Lands No. 156, Penn Twp., Lancaster County.

(b) the Humphrey Brick & Tile Company to lay a 4" natural gas pipe line across Game Lands No. 54 in Snyder Twp., Jefferson County.

(c) the Pa. Power & Light Company to construct two extensions from existing electric lines within the Loyalsock State Game Farm, Lycoming County.

(d) The West Penn Power Company to widen a right-of-way previously granted across Game Lands No. 14, Shippen Twp., Cameron County.

*Refuges and other projects* were discontinued as follows:

(a) Auxiliary Refuge No. 97, containing 1300 acres in Jackson Twp., Cambria County.

(b) Primary Refuge No. 515-D containing 95 acres on the Susquehannock State Forest, Ulysses Twp., Potter County.

(c) Game Propagation Areas Nos. C-8 and C-11 containin 79 and 105 acres in Columbia County.

*Land purchase options* were accepted, subject to exceptions an reservations, as follows:

19 acres in Haycock Twp., Bucks County, an interior holdin within Game Lands No. 157.

3,266.6 acres in Penn Forest Twp., Carbon County, connectin with Game Lands No. 141.

50 acres in Tioga Twp., Tioga County, which is practicall surrounded by Game Lands No. 37.

40 acres in Washington Twp., Butler County, almost sur rounded by Game Lands No. 95.

569.5 acres in Sadsbury and West Fallowfield Twps., Crawfor County, within the upper reaches of the Pymatunin Swamp.

622.5 acres in Greenwood and Union Twps., Crawford County part of the Conneaut Swamp.

A counter offer was made to the Dauphin County Commis sioners for a tract in Rush Twp., connecting with Gam Lands No. 211. If agreed to the purchase will be con sumated.

*A new Game Farm* comprising 551 acres in Rockdale Twp., Craw ford County, was also purchased to enable the Commissio to double its ringneck pheasant capacity in Wester Pennsylvania. The farm is located about three miles eas of Cambridge Springs, and involves the expenditure o around $32,900, excluding $47,000 which was approved fo the purchase of new equipment, repair of buildings, etc

*Options rejected included*

771 acres in Letterkenny Twp., Franklin County connecting with Game Lands No. 76.

197 acres in Washington Twp., Butler County.

268 acres in Cherry and Washington Twps., Butler County.

253 acres in Crawford County.

*Timber removal* will constitute a major land management projec during the coming year, the Commission having approved the cutting, or otherwise removing of the overshadowing tree

growth, from *at least* 5% of its acreage each year. It was also suggested that a greater effort be made to interest many more small operators in the commission's timber cutting projects.

To successfully carry out this program the Commission approved the expenditure of approximately $74,900 for the purchase of bulldozers, trucks, tractors, farming equipment, etc. It was agreed that in the future proposed plans for the management of individual tracts of game lands shall be submitted to the President by the Executive Director, who in turn will confer with the Commissioner in the District where the lands are located to expedite the work.

*lditional Technicians*—The future need for several technicians in addition to those regularly employed in three of the Divisions, to devote their full time to the intensive development of Cooperative Farm-Game Projects, was discussed and the matter referred to the Personnel Committee with power to act.

*ıme Farms*—An expenditure of $47,000 was approved to equip the new pheasant farm in Crawford County, repair buildings, etc., and an estimated $3,500 to purchase 20 additional brooder houses for use at the Loyalsock Game Farm in Lycoming County.

*ıy-old Chick Program Expanded*—Plans were approved to boost the distribution of day-old pheasant chicks to almost 100,000 next spring. This should result in the release of at least 50,000 pheasants in addition to those produced on the Game Farms and purchased from private breeders. Under the expanded program recipients will be required to raise the birds to 12 weeks before relase, instead of 6 to 10 as heretofore. Farm-Game Cooperation will be paid $1.00 each for all full-winged healthy birds turned over to Game Protectors for release at the age specified. Heretofore they were paid 50c for 6-week old and 90c for 10-week old birds.

*ı-week-old-pheasant Program Discontinued*—On the basis of recommendations from the Committee on Propagation and the Staff, the Commission decided to discontinue the distribution of six-week-old pheasants from the game farms to sportsmen because (1) losses of six-week-old birds in shipment are severe; (2) sportsmen did not meet with sufficient success in raising the birds to warrant continuing the program; and (3) it interferes with the present distribution program for birds raised on the game farms.

It was agreed to lend farm-game cooperators, sportsmen's groups, or individuals who will take day-old quail chicks and raise them to twelve weeks the equipment formerly used in raising Hungarian Partridges. Brooder units and 100 pounds of feed will be furnished for each fifty chicks, but the cooperators will not receive any fees for raising the birds, which in all cases will be distributed by Game Protectors.

Photo by W. L. R. Drake.

Photo by A. C. Ganster.

*Additional Game Farms*—The Committee on Propagation was instructed to examine possible sites for two additional pheasant farms in the eastern and central sections of the state and submit the results of its findings later.

*Rabbit Purchases*—The rabbit purchase program will be expanded as desirable animals become available. This year due to various conditions the Commission expects delivery of only about 15,000. It is hoped conditions will improve and if they do more rabbits will be purchased in the future.

*License revocations, seizures, etc.*—The hunting licenses of 156 persons were revoked as follows:

The licenses of 35 persons were seized for one reason or another.

Several refunds were granted because of money erroneously collected, a number of applications for refunds were rejected, and several licenses were restored.

The Courts of Quarter Sessions revoked the hunting and trapping privileges of persons who shot at, wounded, or killed human being in mistake for game, as follows:

(a) Arthur Carl Anderson, Point Breeze Ave., Renovo, Clinton County, for ten years from November 30, 1945 to November 30, 1955, after being convicted of killing a human being in mistake for game.

(b) Harry Hettler, R. D. 3, Lehighton, Carbon County, Pa., for ten years from September 20, 1945 to September 20, 1955, for killing a human being in mistake for game.

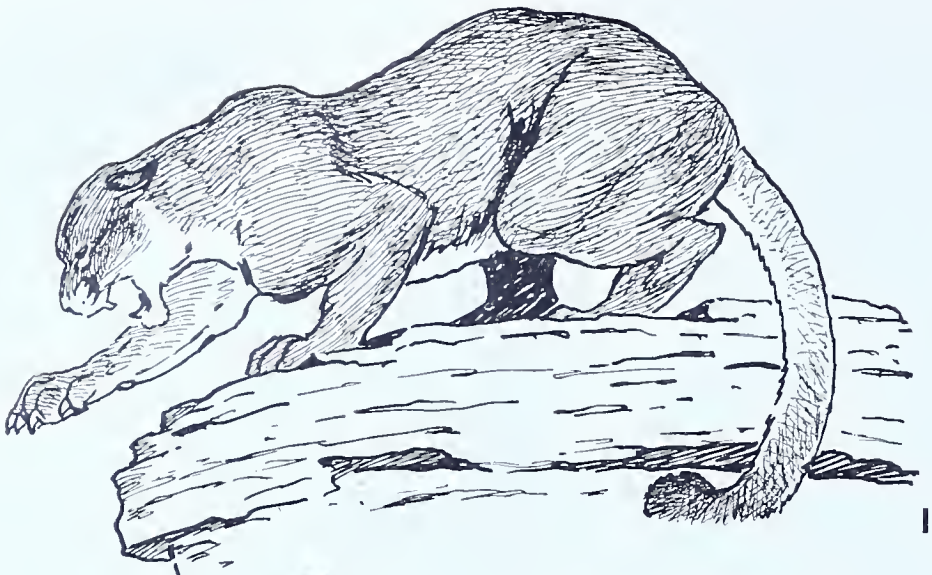
(c) Daniel Anthony Lenzi, 1102 Beechwood Ave., Farrell, Mercer County, for five years from October 20, 1945 to October 30, 1950, for shooting at and wounding a human being in mistake for game.

(d) Hoyt Albert Stump, Jr., 208 Elk Ave., Johnsonburg, Elk County, for five years from October 11, 1945 to October 11, 1950, for shooting at and wounding a human being in mistake for game.

## *PREDATOR CONTROL*

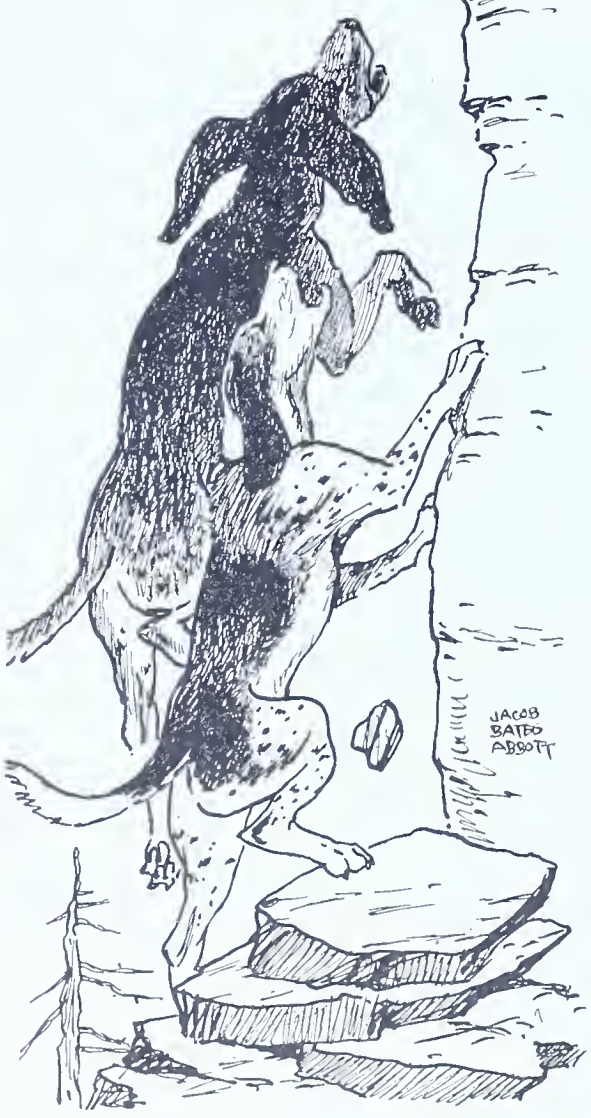
*Predator Control*—The Chairman of the Committee on Predator Control submitted a brief report on the progress made in connection with control of predators up to the end of December 1945, indicating that bounties had been paid during the fiscal year starting June 1, as follows: 3,135 weasels; 7,077 gray foxes; 11,635 red foxes; 92 goshawks; 774 great horned owls, requiring a total expenditure of $81,262.00; while during same period of the previous year only

*(Continued on page 24)*



# THE COMSTOCK LION

**Illustrated by Jacob Bates Abbo**




*Editor's Note: In order to let the other fellow know about some sports not understood by all, the* GAME NEWS *has asked Commander Newbold Ely to write a few notes each month on hounds and the chase.*

FROM the Oklahoma Wolf Hunt described in the November issue "we take you now" to a Texas Lion Hunt, as told by Frank Lacy of Whittier, California, in "Mountain Music".

"Comstock, Texas, was at that time a drab little border town squatting like a saddle sore on the back of the dobe ridges, about thirty-five miles out of Del Rio toward El Paso, on the Southern Pacific Railroad.

"It used to be such a picture of sagebrush desolation that the passengers pulled down the window shades and passed around a bottle as they roared through it on a fast train.

"Its Mexican shacks and sombreroed sheep herders gave the impression that barren cactus clad Mexico had backed across the line and laid an unholy egg on U. S. soil.

"My father and I rode through this town at a fast canter followed by a pack of hounds.

"We left the desolation of the town for the desolation beyond, and began to lead our horses, picking our way through the needlepointed lachageas and stunted Wahea brush. We were unmindful of the harsh aspects of the landscape. We had something more important on our minds. Lion. And furthermore a certain lion in particular.

"The Comstock Lion, our quarry was called, so named because this locale had been plagued by its depredations for two years. The loss of a few calves and sheep had merely drawn curses from the ranchers and caused them the inconveniences of carrying thirty-thirtys on their saddles. But when the four-year-old child of a Mexican woman who was out picking wild Spanish tea was killed before the eyes of the mother, two ranchers rode post haste for my father and I and our hounds.

"We arrived on the scene of the tragedy about four p.m.

"The trail of the marauder was cold. The hounds cast wide, then came back to the spot of the attack. They smelled the blood splotches and their bristles rose and their tails began to whip their sides.

"Rock and Rowdy, our cold trailers opened up all around on a twenty-foot circle. The other two hounds snuffled and snorted for a scent but would not open. After a bit old Rock nosed out the leaving trail, following the cold scent track by track at a walk. He would sniff and snort and raising his head bawl his challenge, bringing the other dogs running to search for a scent only Rock could detect.

"The trail went into the head breaks the Devil's River country.

"At six o'clock more men and hounds a rived, but father instructed them to ho their hounds on leash. He didn't want tl trail trampled up, or some fool hound pul ing his dogs off the trail. This cat had kill a child.

" 'Give old Rock time,' he told the me 'and he will trail it to a hot track if takes a week.'

"At midnight old Rock was cold trailin steadily with Rowdy and the other two do opening occasionally, but still Dad held tl men and their dogs back.

"The trail led down a rough ridge b tween two canyons toward Devil's Rive The dogs made a lose, then picked up tl trail leading through a slide in the thr hundred foot high rimrocks into Dead Mar Canyon, worked close at the foot of the rin rock through a chaos of boulders large two-story buildings and on down the ca yon. Here the trail began to meand through a maize of slides, prickly pears a lachagea daggers and the hounds were ha ing great difficulty in following the trac They made frequent loses but we could st hear old Rock steadily cold-trailing, hu huh-huh owwwing as he pieced togeth the story of the cat's passing.

"Several of the men, disgusted becau father would not let them put their houn in, gave it up as a bad job and went hom

" 'Good riddance,' I remember Dad sa ing. 'They might have had deer-runni dogs.'

"Three of the four men with their do stayed on. At three a.m. we heard o youngest dog jump wide open two or thr hundred feet ahead of the old dogs. Fath lifted his hand for silence. We heard Ro and Rowdy shut up as they ran to che behind the young dog.

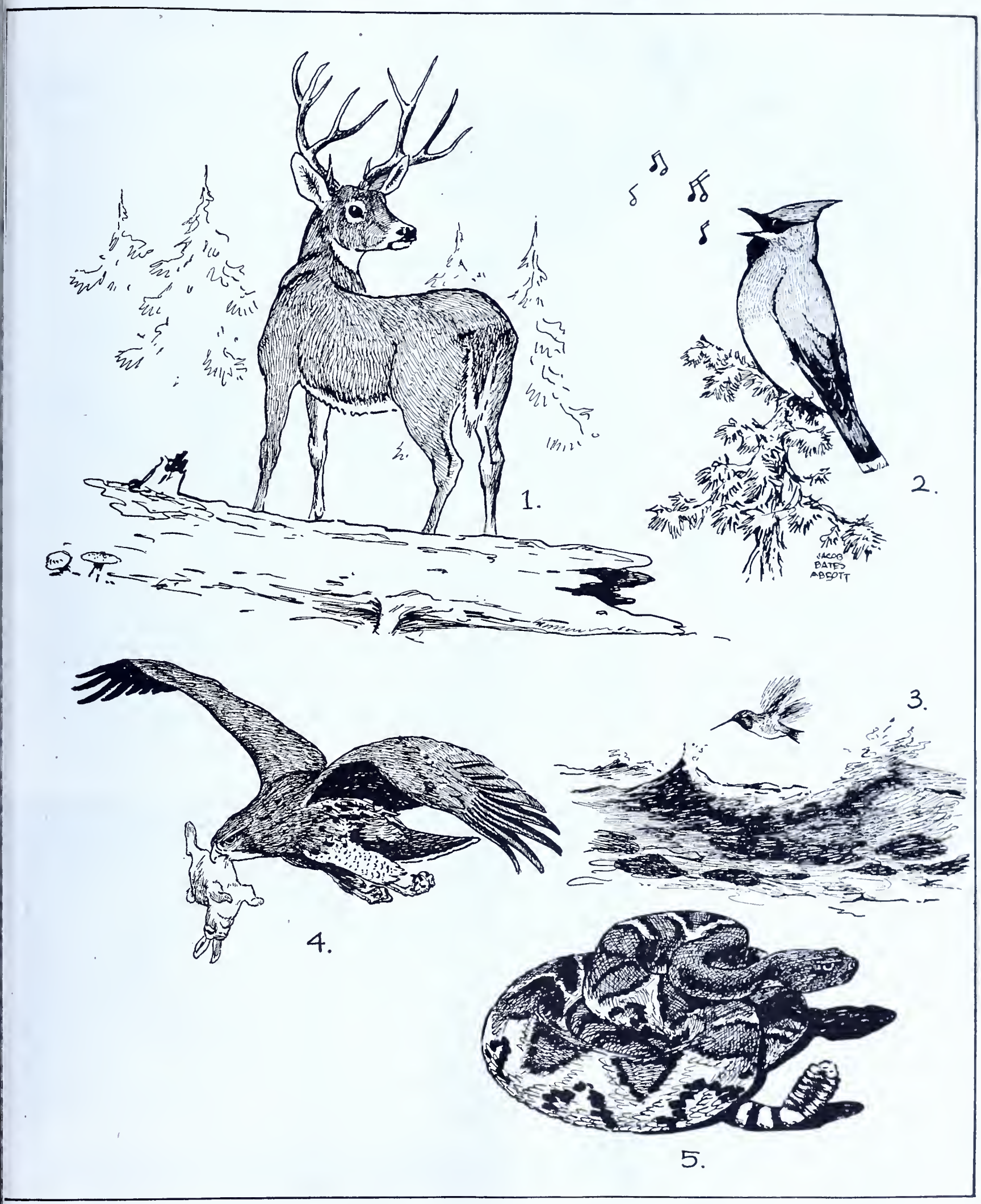
"But old Rock pronounced approval roars that rolled against the walls of t canyon like huge balls of sound. A mome later Rowdy and the other dog added th echoes of savage satisfaction.

"Father said the young dog must ha been casting ahead and jumped the li Or else jumped the hot track from whe the cat was laying up thirty minutes befo

"He instructed the hunters to find a pla where their dogs could get down the ri rock, and turn them in. But they cut t dogs loose there and then and the eag hounds rushed to the edge of the rimro baying down the rim looking for a place

*(Continued on page 32)*

# WELL, WHAT'S WRONG?

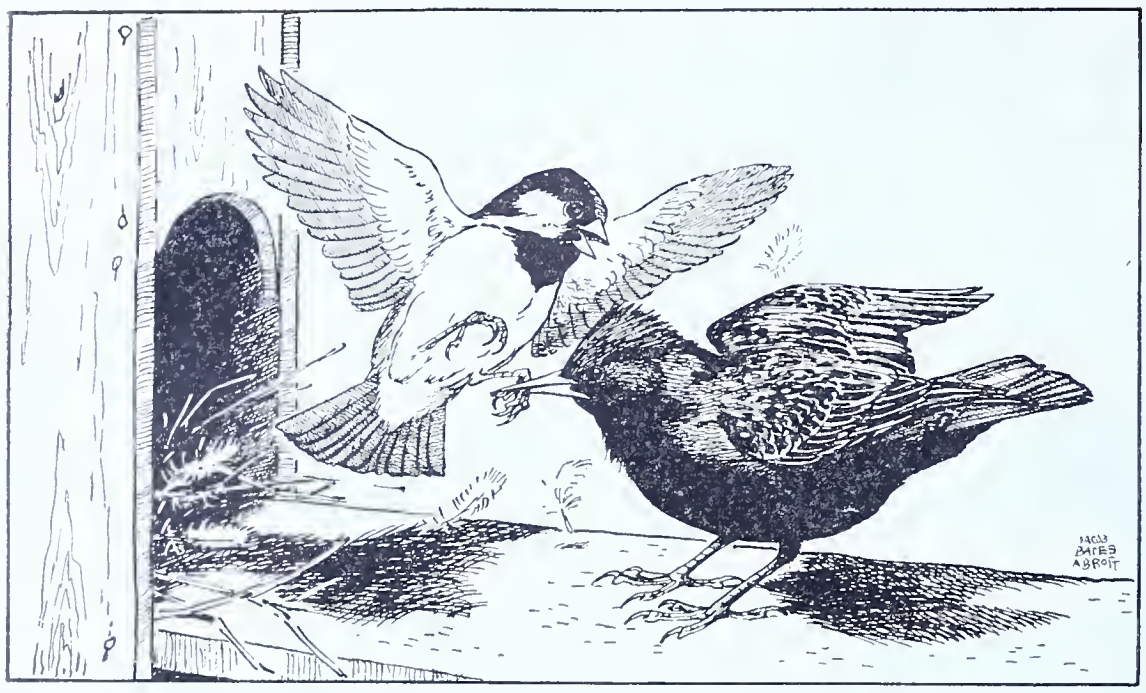



Answers on Page 17.

# FRIENDLY ENEMIES


## By Lewis E. Potts

### Preparator, State Museum

The starling was dragging the sparrow out.

"ONE morning early last April, I heard a great commotion coming from under the hood covering the track and wheels above the sliding doors on a building at my home. In front of the doors the ground was covered with sticks, straw, string, feathers and scraps of cloth. At first I was not sure just where the sounds were coming from but soon I was convinced that they were coming from above those doors and also that the uproar was being made by birds. It sounded as if there were dozens of them and something was surely trying to kill them. I stopped and watched perhaps five minutes or more, when to my surprise, only two birds emerged from the open end of that hood, the only entrance and exit.

"The first one was a European Starling and the next an English Sparrow, and the sparrow wasn't chasing the starling either. The starling was dragging the sparrow out, and when the starling reached the edge of the door he dropped the sparrow "ker-flunk" on the ground. For fully a minute the sparrow appeared to be finished, then he moved, sort of waddled around in a circle a few times, jumped to his feet and up he went after the starling. In the hole the sparrow went, and brought out Mr. Starling. He gave that starling an awful beating. Evidently fighting inside this hood was an advantage to the starling, as the sparrow certainly gave that starling plenty on the outside. Immediately the sparrow started taking the string, straw, etc., into the hole again above the doors. He worked for possibly five minutes, then flew to the limb of a nearby tree, sat there as if waiting to see what would happen next. Quick as a flash the starling appeared and started to drag out the material the sparrow had just taken in. At intervals of about one minute, the sparrow would leave his perch on a nearby tree and fly straight for that hole while the starling was inside, but each time when he reached the entrance he would hover in the air a few seconds (he did this quite a few times) then back to the tree. I tried to figure out just what these actions meant. The answer was, I think, that sparrow was trying to catch the starling just as he emerged from the hole, handicapped with a load of nesting material, this giving the sparrow a few extra points at the start of the next round. He finally gained his objective, gave the starling another good sound flogging. As soon as possible, the starling left, flying in a straight line as far as I could see. Then the sparrow again started to rebuild the nest. That some evening the battle was on again inside the hood above the doors. In a few moments out they came, the sparrow first, flying straight to the same perch on the tree. The starling started to carry the nesting material into the hole, but he refused to pick up even a single feather that day or any other day that I watched. Yet, (please note photo) his portion of the nest was lined with feathers too.

"Dozens of times, either the sparrow or the starling would work very hard to rebuild that nest and just as hard the other one would work to tear it out. This tit-for-tat sequence continued until about the middle of May. Now the animosity appeared to be subsiding as the squabbles were less frequent. About the middle of May the starling was seldom seen. The sparrow spen a great deal of time on his favorite perc on the tree. Then later the starling perche above the doors quite often. After a fe days the sparrow and starling frequentl sat on top of the doors, sitting about a foo apart. At times, I would see one go insid the hood, sometimes the other, sometime both would go in, the sparrow always firs Evidently they had called off the feud. became very curious; I peeked into th hood, the sparrow was on the nest, the next day I looked again, out came th starling, and almost flew straight into m eye. The sparrow was sitting on the nest a the far end. The starling was using the pa near the open end of the hood. In th starling nest was one egg. A few days late I looked again, and each nest held tw eggs. On June 2nd each nest held five egg Then I collected the nests, or rather nes as it was built together like a double hous Each bird had his own side, as you will se in the photogroph.

"I consider this one of the most uncom mon, unprecedented incidents of bird lor considering the general belief that these tw birds are arch enemies.

"The English sparrow was imported fro Europe in 1851, and in 1890 the starling wa imported from Europe and Asia, with th idea of exterminating the sparrow. Bu from this eye witness account, plus th great flock of English sparrows it woul seem that the experiment was a failure." —Mr. Lewis E. Potts, Preparator, Sta Museum, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

The nest was built like a double house. Photo by E. L. Burket

# BATS

By CAROLINE A. HEPPENSTALL

Assistant Curator of Mammalogy
Carnegie Museum

WELL-KNOWN, but little understood, often seen, but seldom examined, the ts of Pennsylvania are among the most teresting of our smaller mammals. To any people bats are birds—slightly peculiar, beit, but nevertheless, birds. This, like ost of the "batty stories," is not true, for ts are quite definitely mammals, which, definition, are animals which have a hairy vering, give birth to living young and ckle them at the breast. The bat easily lfills all of these qualifications; but in ldition, it has the marvelous ability to fly. the skeleton of a bat is examined, even sually, it will readily be noticed that the -called "wing" is merely a modified fore- m and hand, covered with a thin mem- rane. An interesting feature of this de- elopment is the thumb, which is always ee, and "helps, when the animal is crawl-

He emits very high-pitched squeaks.

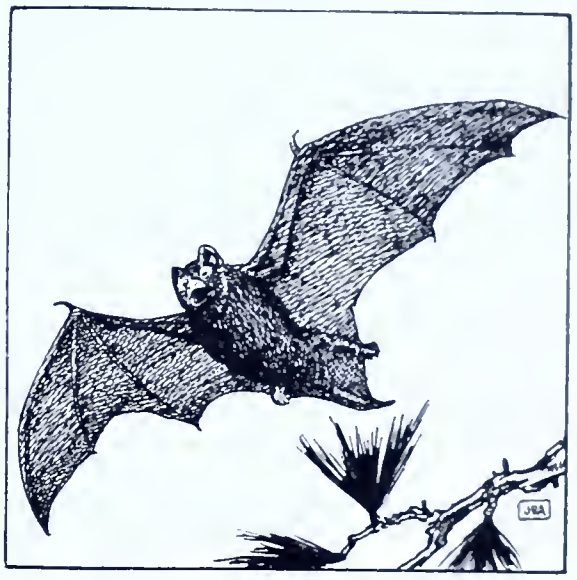
ng, to hook the body along by the aid of ts terminal claw." All of our Pennsylvania ats have a membrane between their hind egs, which completely conceals what was nce a normal tail. In connection with its daptation for flight this animal has de- veloped a large lung cavity, powerfully nuscled shoulders, a stout neck and short, veak hindquarters. All of these features end to make the average person look upon he bat as a strange, mysterious and some- what malignant creature. It has been said hat "not to know is to fear," and it is not t all strange that the sudden appearance f a grotesque, leather-winged, flying mouse n a bedroom or summer cottage should hrow the household into an uproar. The ntruder is usually pursued with brooms or nops until it meets its doom, or beats a nasty retreat through some unsuspected rack or crevice about the room.

It is indeed too bad, however, that the bat is so feared and misunderstood, for he is a highly beneficial and harmless little mam- mal. During the daylight hours of the warmer months he is usually fast asleep, well concealed beneath a loose piece of bark, in the eaves of a barn or house, or even in a hollow stump or log. When dusk falls he ventures forth, swooping low over the nearest pond, lake or river to quench his thirst, then soaring up again to catch insects on the wing. In this State all of our bats are insect-eaters and consume

Photo by Dr. James P. Chapin.
Two little Brown Bats caught on a single burdock.

countless thousands of injurious insects each night. When the insect is seized in the bat's jaws the tail membrane is immediately curled forward, the bat ducks its head and thrusts the insect into the pouch thus formed by the membrane, relaxes his grip for a second, then takes a swift bite or two and devours his prey. When a sufficient meal has been obtained the bat retires to its re- treat ,hangs himself up—head down—and resumes his sleep. It is quite probable that before daylight he once more sallies forth on a foraging expedition, but too little is known about this to make a definite state- ment. It is known, however, that different races of bats have different feeding habits, that some types are low flyers and some high, some come out early in the evening, some late, and that many of them have a very regular and well-defined route and time schedule. When the cold winter months come most of our bats retreat to deep caves, there to hibernate until the warmth of spring stirs them to activity once more. During this period hundreds of them will hang together in a cluster from a cave wall, almost motion- less, cold to the touch and seemingly devoid of life. There are some types, however, which migrate to our southern states and thus enjoy year-round activity.

Common belief has dubbed the bat "un- clean," accused him of carrying bedbugs, fleas, etc., blamed him for tangling himself in women's "crowning glory" and all manner of strange things. There is little truth in all of this. In reality the bat is a rather cleanly little creature, frequently grooming himself with his claws and carefully washing himself.



When dusk falls he ventures forth.

True, he does have parasites, just as every other type of mammal has its parasites. There are fleas on them at times, even as on our domestic dogs, but they are bat fleas, and have no interest in any other animal host, including man. In some parts of the country they occasionally acquire parasitic bedbugs, but these again are not the sort of bedbugs one finds in unfortunate house- holds, but a type that confines itself to bats and shuns the company of the human race. One is less apt to find vermin on a bat than on most wild animals, and it can safely be said that the beautiful song bird is usually far dirtier than the homely bat. Perhaps in the dim past an unfortunate and luckless bat did get itself entangled in a woman's hair, but most assuredly he shared her panic and horror when it happened! Were such a practice common it would mean race suicide for bats.

In spite of the popular saying, "blind as a bat," the bat really can see. It is true that his eyes are not as keen as those of other mammals, for he flies at night and does not rely on his eyesight to avoid ob- stacles, but he is in no sense of the word blind. The eyes are small, black and shiny, giving an impression of extreme alertness. Most interesting of all this unique animal's strange qualities is his sense of hearing. On that rests his ability to avoid obstacles in the dark—even thin wires, closely strung

*(Continued on page 27)*

# RIFLE FIT COUNTS, TOO!

**By TED TRUEBLOOD**

BEFORE next December rolls around many an honest dollar—and probably some dishonest ones, too—will be cheerfully plunked down on the counter in exchange for what some of the more optimistic brothers are pleased to call "deer rifles." A lot of the boys have been saving their movie money for four long years for this very moment and it would be a sad day indeed if the new shooting iron should turn out to be a sour kluck instead of "a thing of beauty and a joy forever."

Buying a new gun is a great moment in the life of a hunter. With most of us it comes only after a long period of saving and anticipation. After all, we don't buy new rifles every day and when we do dig up the rocks for one we naturally expect it to give long years of faithful service. Now, there isn't an American rifle made that won't do just that, provided it's given reasonable care, but whether we get the most out of the particular gun we buy depends almost entirely on how wisely we make our choice.

We can read every book in the land and get the advice of every expert in the field before we lay down our money and we can be pretty well decided in advance as to the caliber, action and kind of sights we want but there is one question no one can answer for us. This is on the matter of gun fit.

Its importance is well known to all devotees of the smooth-bored tube. Some shot-gunners may not be articulate about the matter, but you can bet that every good upland shot uses a gun that fits him.

In view of this, why should fit be less important with a rifle for fast offhand shooting against such difficult targets as bounding whitetail deer? In my opinion, it is equally essential. The woods hunter for deer and bear often must aim as fast and much more accurately than the shotgun man.

Yet, how does the average man buy a rifle? Nine times out of ten he chooses it either because he prefers a certain action or because he has been sold on some particular caliber.

After I had been shooting rifles about 15 years I noticed that I occasionally made lucky shots with some of them, while with others every hit was the result of concerted effort in the matter of hold, aim and trigger squeeze. The first of these "lucky" rifles was a Remington slide-action .22 with a 24-inch octagon barrel.

Being a country boy I had no trouble finding plenty of targets for year-around shooting and I soon discovered that I was making hits with this .22 far more often than with either of the others I had owned.

I killed a number of crows on wing, a feat not too difficult if they are within 30 yards, but still one that isn't done every day. Running rabbits are much harder to hit with a rifle, but I took them with fair regularity up to and including one memorable shot at 112 long steps. Now, anybody could say that such a shot was pure luck and I wouldn't deny it, but the point is that I made lucky shots with that rifle right along. With youthful ego, I didn't give the gun much credit and in a couple of years I traded it for another.

After I began deer hunting I had the same experience. Some rifles were "lucky" and others were not. With some I made tough shots on running targets while other guns which were equally accurate failed to pay off in tight spots. It was then that I began to get wise to rifle fit—and further study along this line has convinced me that "lucky" rifles are the ones which fit perfectly and almost shoot themselves. When I snapped them to my shoulder for a quick

*(Continued on next page)*

**Ted Trueblood.**

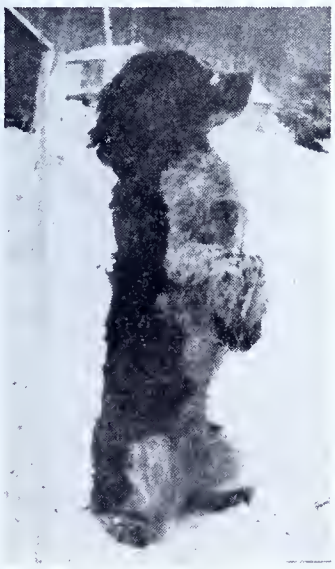
shot the sights were properly aligned the instant my cheek touched the comb.

I now believe that the fit of a rifle is much more important than its type of action, sights, price or caliber—assuming, of course, that the latter is suited to the game hunted. Pennsylvania deer hunters have a choice of three good actions, lever, bolt and slide, and there are not less than a dozen good calibers from .250 Savage to .300 Magnum, any of which is capable of laying down a deer or bear stiffer than the proverbial wedge.

Probably there is a factory model to suit every rifleman, but if you don't happen to find one, or if you now own a rifle that doesn't fit you can alter the stock, or have it altered, so that it does. The commonest fault in rifles, particularly if a 'scope is used, is to have the comb too low. You can't do fast accurate, off-hand shooting if you have to lift your face off the comb to see through the 'scope, and yet this is always necessary with rifles which were designed for iron sights. The 'scope-sighted bolt action should have the comb so high that the bolt barely will clear it—the exact amount of drop depending, of course, on the height of the 'scope mounts.

If the comb of your rifle should happen to be too high—which rarely is the case, even with iron sights—you can lower it by scraping and sandpapering away the excess wood. Another point to guard against is excessive pitch, which is likely to cause under-shooting with a rifle, just as it does with a shotgun. The length of pull also can be altered to suit.

Of course, so many factors enter into the perfect gun fit that it would be impossible to discuss them all in an article of this length. I think, however, that nearly every hunter will instinctively recognize a rifle that fits him when he handles it. If he chooses such a gun, placing the matter of fit first and all other considerations second, I am sure that he will be able to do much better fast, accurate, off-hand shooting—the kind of shooting that puts meat on the table—when he goes after deer and bear next fall.



**Lost or stolen at Freeman's, McKean County, on December 15, a Springer Spaniel, believed to have been picked up by deer hunters on way home. McKean County license No. 43. If found, please notify Russell M. Downey, Eldred, Pa. Reward offered.**

Herbert Kendrick.

# SELECTING A PUP

## By HERBERT KENDRICK

TO BE reasonably certain that future days in the field will be gloriously enhanced by the lovable companionship of a graceful, well mannered, and dependable gun dog, extremely careful consideration must be given to the accurate selection of a pup. Perfection in dog performance is neither an accident nor luck, and is very difficult to achieve unless the chosen youngster shows a substantial amount of promise at an early age.

A dog that carries himself attractively with a smooth easy stride, high noble head, and a merry tail, is truly a thing of beauty in woods and fields. Such an animal is well worth the money, time, and effort required for his selection and training through the one to two years that make up his puppyhood. This period of time can be as sporting and thrilling as the actual killing of game over the finished dog. The joy of accomplishment through each phase of his training is forever lasting, and will be well remembered long after his days of usefulness have passed.

The selection of a puppy should not be as uncertain a risk as many prospective dog owners are led to believe. If a few simple qualifications are kept in mind, and the buyer does not act too hastily, then his chances are more than fair that his beginning will be successful.

The first and most important of these qualifications is that of breeding. Go into the field with the parents of the pup and actually see them perform. Carefully study movements, style, nose, and attitude toward each other, and watch the use they make of reasoning and method of outwitting the crafty game birds they seek. Consider their field etiquette and response to command, and observe their admiration for the handler. If the sire and dam possess the qualifications you desire, you may rest assured the pups have inherited some natural hunting ability.

Under no circumstances should a hunter buy a puppy that is not entitled to be registered, for as sure as he will develop into a prized possession, you will want him to produce a prodigy for yourself or your friends who respect good bird dogs. It costs no more to keep a well bred dog, and the confidence and pride in ownership is worth far more than the difference in the original cost.

A pointer or setter is the wisest choice for hunting game birds in this State. The Griffon, Britttany Spaniel, German Shorthair, Cocker and Springer Spaniel are gaining in popularity but you cannot find a more suitable hunting companion than the pointer or setter. The choice between these two may be your own personal preference. There are many experienced dog men who rely heavily on the setter, and give substantial reasons for their choice, yet on the other hand the enthusiastic pointer fancier will give identical reasons for his confidence in the smooth shorthaired dog.

When there are a number of puppies in the litter of the parents you have selected, choose the youngster that boldly holds up his head, uses his tail with merry ease, and looks at you with clear unafraid eyes, and makes an effort to be friendly with you. Avoid the nervous, sickly one because he will cause you no end of trouble. Look for the little feller that seems glad to be alive, happy, contented, willing and active. The one that warms your heart and makes you want to lift him in your arms and keep him

*(Continued on page 31)*

## TRAPPERS "ON THE BEAM"

Pennsylvania fox trappers are really "on the beam" these days. They are sending pelts into the Harrisburg office for bounty in such numbers that the bounty division is just about swamped. At this rate, the accumulated predator problem should be brought under control in the not-too-distant future.

Officials expect to pay over $125,000 this year for bounties. The total figure may exceed the amount spent in 1921-1922, when a somewhat comparable predator condition existed following World War I. That year over $134,000 was spent to control predators.

Since 1929 there has been no state-wide bounty on the red fox. In 1940, however, bounties were paid for red foxes killed in 26 northern and northwestern counties in Pennsylvania. This payment continued until 1942. From that time, until last July when the state-wide bounty was resumed, the red fox went scot free. Due to reduced hunting and trapping, his tribe increased unhindered, and became so plentiful that last July the Commission placed a $4.00 bounty on their heads in all counties except Chester and Delaware where special laws protect them.

During the month of December the Harrisburg office received an average of 457 foxes per day. The total for the month was 8,693. Of this number 5,482 were reds and 3,211 grays. This is a big jump over the same month last year, when only 1,649 gray foxes were submitted, an increase of more than 400%. During the first four days of January the average foxes sent in per day was 714.

The honors for December go to Susquehanna County, which turned in a total of 739 fox bounty claims. Other counties which had over 200 bounty claims for foxes were: Tioga, 620; Potter, 502; Wayne, 473; Bradford, 396; Warren, 303; Elk, 247; McKean, 238; Lycoming, 226; and Crawford, 221.

Between June 1 and December 31, 1945 the Commission paid a total of $81,262.00 for 18,712 foxes; 3,135 weasels; 92 goshawks; and 774 Great Horned Owls, as compared with $16,774.00 for 3,401 foxes; 1,495 weasels, 20 goshawks; and 438 Great Horned Owls paid out during the same period in 1944. The jump in expenditures alone was more than 400%.

The increase in foxes has not been confined to Pennsylvania alone. The whole northeastern area of the United States, from Georgia north and from the Dakotas east, is heavily populated by these furry predators.

The main reasons for the increase in the fox kill in Pennsylvania have been the end of the war and the $4.00 bounty on the red fox. More trappers are running trap-lines now that they have been discharged from the armed service or relieved from full-time war jobs.

If this good work is continued, Pennsylvania will soon again hold the reins on her predator problems.

## NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE CONFERENCE

At the North American Wildlife Conference to be held in New York next March 11, 12 and 13 the overall theme of the technical program will be, Is There a Place for Wildlife in a Changing World? The answer, of course, will be "yes" and it is predicated upon six sub-titles: 1. Agricultural Lands and Wildlife. 2. Range and Forest Lands and Wildlife. 3. Fresh Water Marshes and Wildlife. 4. Marine Habitats and Wildlife. 5. Advance in Wildlife Technique. 6. Wildlife in Business.

The general sessions will cover the fields of conservation education, effects of war on wildlife, effects of public works on wildlife, waterfowl management, managed hunting areas, training for wildlife management, and other important administrative problems.

This will be the first conference since 1943, when it was held in Chicago.

Photo by R. L. R. Snyder.
**Oley M. Wile, of Shippenville, feels that every sportsman should devote more time to the extermination of predators if we want good hunting again. These foxes were killed in a two week period and along with having a lot of sport, Wile realized $72.00 in bounties plus the fur value of the pelts, totalling considerably more than $100.00.**

Photo by Geo. P. Millington.
**Grouse crop filled with hemlock, bits of twigs, leaves, acorns, etc. A friend of Mr. Millington's killed the bird early in the season in the clearing surrounded by woods.**

**Freak rack of buck "in velvet." The animal was killed last season in Somerset County by Samuel Deeter of Berlin, Pa.**

## A Rare Chance To Do Something Different

It may be recalled that the Committee appointed by Governor Edward Martin to commemorate the 300th Anniversary of the birth of William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania, in making its final report to the Governor, recommended that a special effort be made to beautify the William Penn Highway. This is Route 22, one of the main highways traversing the State from the Delaware River to the Ohio State Line. It passes through Harrisburg, the capital of the State, and numerous important cities and towns. The Committee suggested that as the Hemlock is the official State Tree of Pennsylvania and the Mountain Laurel the official State Flower, that a tree, with an appropriate and artistic grouping of the shrub, should be planted as milestones across the State. Each mile should be numbered beginning at the Delaware River. Naturally there would be omissions where the highway passes through cities and towns and in other places where no suitable spot could be found for the group. But such a use of our State emblems would be unique in the ornamentation of any highway throughout the United States. Pennsylvania has a rare opportunity to lead the way in adding interest, not only to the traveler, but to every community, large or small, through which the highway passes.

Route 22 traverses 14 counties of the State: Northampton, Lehigh, Berks, Lebanon, Dauphin, Perry, Mifflin, Huntingdon, Blair, Cambria, Indiana, Westmoreland, Allegheny and Washington. If the public spirited citizens of these counties thought well of this novel and artistic, as well as practical, planting along this great central highway, it would undoubtedly stimulate the interest of the Highway Department of the State in the project. All it needs is a little pushing. Governor Martin in an off-hand opinion thought it was an excellent idea.

---

## ANSWERS TO "WHAT'S WRONG?"

1. **Mule deer antlers on a white-tail deer.**
2. **Cedar waxwings do not sing. They have only two calls—a high, faint whistle and a reedy call-note.**
3. **Strange as it seems, this one is all right. In migration tiny ruby-throated hummingbirds cross 500 miles of ocean, flying over the Gulf of Mexico.**
4. **Hawks and eagles carry their prey in their talons.**
5. **Rattlesnakes do not have round pupils. Their lidless eyes have narrow, eliptical pupils.**

## 1946 NATIONAL WILDLIFE WEEK SET FOR MARCH 17 TO 23

National Wildlife Week this year has been set for the week beginning March 17. Proclaimed by President Roosevelt in 1938, it has been sponsored annually by the National Wildlife Federation.

How the conservation of wildlife is related to soil, water and plant control will be the underlying theme of those conservationists who, through the press, over the radio and from the public platform, will tell this dramatic story to the nearly 20,000,000 Americans interested in the out-of-doors and the creatures that inhabit it.

Special emphasis this year will be given to postwar wildlife projects to insure adequate supplies of fish and game to meet the increased hunting and fishing pressure that is certain to follow the return of millions of service men and women to civilian life.

Each year the National Wildlife Federation issues a sheet of wildlife poster stamps reproduced from paintings by famous American nature artists. The current issue has 40 studies of birds, mammals, fish, flowers and trees in the 64 stamps on the sheet.

Clubs, societies and individuals interested in securing further information about wildlife week activities should write the Federation at 20 Spruce Street, Boston, Mass.

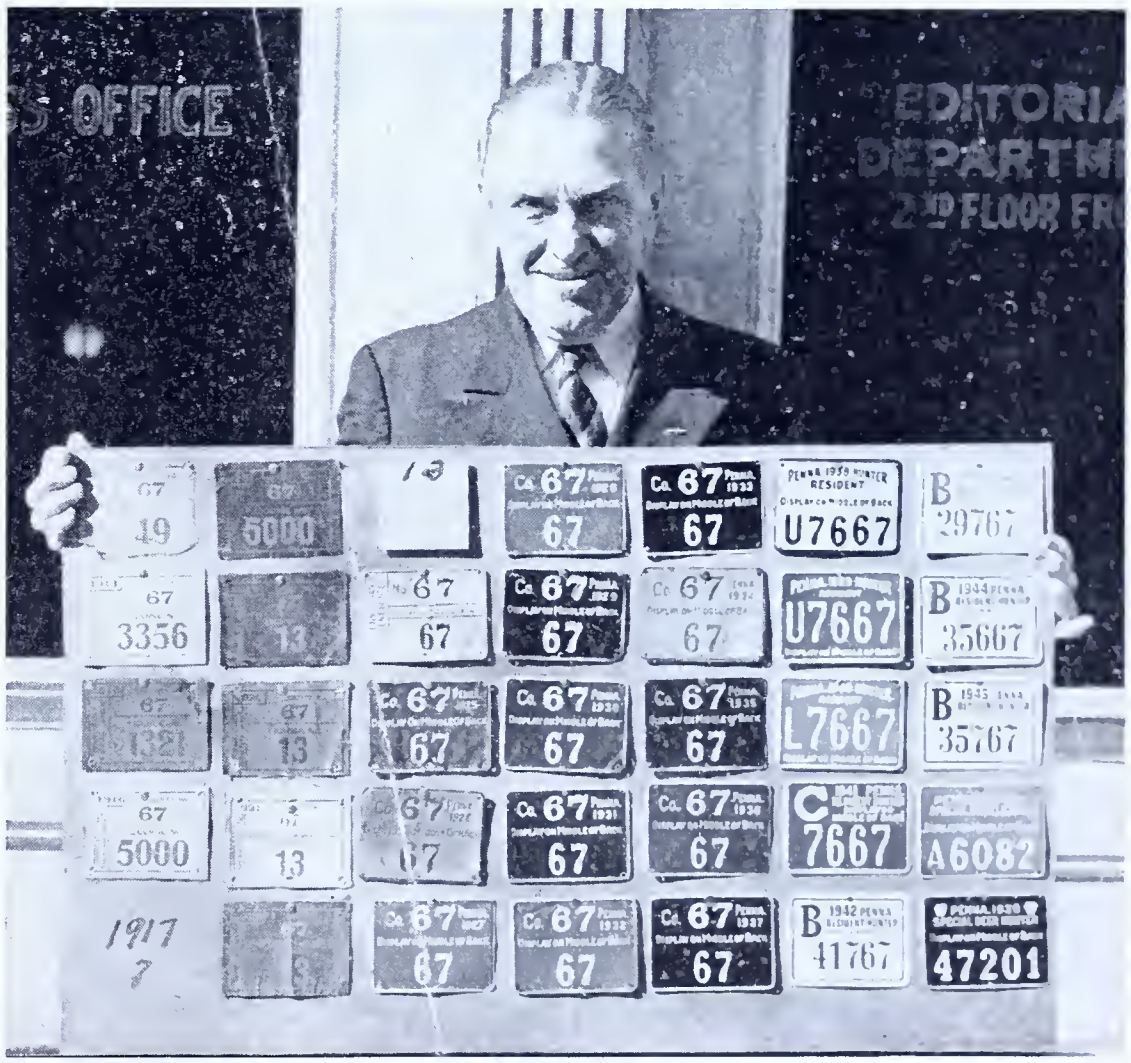
The Federation is a non-profit organization whose objectives are the preservation of wildlife.

**LOST: in Spring Township, Berks County, November 25, one male fox hound named Pat. Seven years old, wart in middle of back about 4 inches in front of the base of the tail. If found please notify Albert R. Bachman, R. D. No. 2, Box 64, Sinking Spring, Pa.**

FINANCES

| | |
|---|---|
| Amount of money credited to the Game Fund during December 1945 | $ 448,576.20 |
| Amount disbursed from the Game Fund during December 1945 | 118,573.44 |
| Treasury Department Game Fund balance December 31, 1945 | 2,909,399.57 |

(Exclusive of $200,000.00 invested in Government Bonds. The balance includes the War-Time Reserve, although no deduction is made for commitments and unwarranted requisitions as of Dec. 31, 1945.)




**Pictured above is M. B. Conner, York, with the hunter's license plates, or tags, which he collected over a long period of years. Mr. Conner, an ardent hunter, and president of the York County Gun Club, has saved all licenses issued since 1913, the first year the Pennsylvania Game Commission began charging a $1 fee, except those of 1917 and 1923, which he mislaid. For five years from 1919 to 1924 he held license No. 13 and for two years he held No. 5000. He discontinued getting No. 13 when one of his friends with whom he frequently hunted said he wouldn't hunt with him any more if he got No. 13 again. He then started to get No. 67, County No. 67. This number he obtained for 14 years in succession.**

Frank Hoffer, R. D. Hummelstown, with snowy owl he captured near his farm recently. The bird was injured and later died. The Game Commission is interested in having reports of other snowy owls observed.

# RABBIT TRAPPING NETS RESULTS

Game Protectors and their agents have done a splendid job trapping rabbits and other game so far this winter and there is every likelihood that their efforts will be still further rewarded before spring. A lot of clubs, Scouts and individuals are taking an interest in the program, realizing that all the creatures trapped will be released on areas where public shooting is allowed. The opposite table shows the results from June 1 to December 31, 1945.

| | Trapped June 1 to Nov. 30, 1945 | Trapped Dec. 1945 |
|---|---|---|
| Rabbits | 187 | 2,740 |
| Pheasants | 22 | 196 |
| Raccoons | 8 | 8 |
| Squirrels | 118 | 37 |
| Mink | 0 | 3 |
| Muskrats | 0 | 55 |
| Woodchucks | 13 | 0 |
| Skunks | 17 | 2 |
| Opossums | 1 | 0 |
| Weasels | 1 | 0 |

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION
DIVISION OF LANDS

SUMMARY OF ACREAGES IN GAME MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

On Lands Owned or Under Nominal Control of the Commission — December 31, 1945

| Land Management Classification | No. of Units | Total Area (Acres) | Refuges and Propagation Areas | | Safety Zones | | Open Hunting (Acres) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | No. | Acres | No. | Acres | |
| State Game Lands | 189 | 817,912 | 212 | 58,496 | | | 759,416 |
| Primary Refuges on State Forests and Other Public Lands | 78 | 51,526 | 78 | 51,526 | | | |
| Auxiliary Refuge Projects General Classification | 45 | 36,034 | 50 | 9,911 | | | 26,123 |
| Cooperative Farm-Game Projects | 68 | 162,575 | 675 | 5,451 | 2,104 | 38,596 | 118,528 |
| Game Propagation Areas | 83 | 25,102 | 83 | 25,102 | | | |
| Special Preserves:[1] | | | | | | | |
| Dog Training | 6 | 3,383 | | | | | |
| Archery Hunting | 2 | 1,985 | | | | | |
| State Game Farms | 5 | 3,693 | | | | | |
| Total | 476 | 1,102,210 Deduct 2,130[1] 1,100,080 | 1,098 | 150,486 | 2,104 | 38,596 | 904,067 |
| Special Wildlife Refuge Projects (Leased by Sportsmen's Organizations) | 125 | 35,594 | 154 | 3,169 | 219 | 2,414 | 30,011 |

[1] Includes two Dog Training Preserves and one Archery Hunting Preserve, totalling 2,130 acres, located on State Game Lands. Hunting is partially restricted. This 2,130 acres is deducted from the "Total Area" so there will be no duplication of acreage.

## GAME PROTECTORS EXTREMELY BUSY

Besides being very strenuous, the duties of our field officers are wide and varied and the routine changes daily. Regardless of the protector's diversified activities, he is always on the alert for the potential violator.

During the recent months of October, November and December, 1945, they apprehended and successfully prosecuted 1521 persons involved in some form of game law violation.

While these included a number of minor infractions, such as setting untagged traps, failure to tag big game, failure to maintain big game roster, shooting at random during game season, hunting before or after shooting hours, and carrying loaded firearms in vehicles (which is also a very dangerous practice), the great majority of violations covered far more serious acts, such as pre-season trapping of protected fur bearers, hunting without license (both by residents and non-residents), pre-season and post-season game killing, killing protected song birds, killing over daily limit of game, killing deer and bear in closed season, including doe deer—spike bucks and cub bears and hunting deer at night with the aid of a spotlight.

A number of hunters also tried to procure licenses and to hunt after their hunting rights had been revoked for previous convictions of game law offenses and received double penalties.

It was necessary to bring action in a number of instances against hunters involved in hunting accidents where they mistook and shot a fellow hunter for a species of game. Such incidents are very distressing and place the offender liable to jail sentences, in addition to the payment of cash penalties and financial reimbursement to the victim or the victim's family, plus the loss of hunting privileges for periods ranging from 5 to 10 years.

It may be interesting to note that fines recovered and deposited to the credit of the Game Fund totaled approximately $42,352.00. Broken down by months it shows October penalties $4,571.00; November penalties $9,281.00 and December penalties $28,500.00.

Due credit is acknowledged to other cooperating law enforcement agencies, especially the Pennsylvania State Police, who rendered much valuable assistance.

Nice 8-point, 180-pound buck shot by Edwin Blessing, left, Wrightsville, last December 11. His friend Paul Little, recently discharged, is at right.

## BEAVER SEASON

A fair catch of beavers should be the result of the open season which begins Friday, February 15 at 8 A.M. and closes Friday, March 1, at noon.

Although one person may legally take only 2 beavers during the season, the prices of pelts are high enough to justify the time and effort expended in the trapping.

The Commission reminded trappers of the following important regulations:

1. That trapping is not permitted where dams are posted by the Commission.
2. That one person may set, tend or operate 10 traps only.
3. That traps must not be placed closer than 15 feet from the waterline on any established beaver house.
4. That non-residents may not trap beavers.
5. That trappers are required to keep tags above ice or water line to facilitate identification without disturbing traps.
6. That pelts must be tagged within 10 days after season and may not be sold or otherwise disposed until properly tagged.
7. That trapped animals such as muskrats which are not in season must be turned in to a Game Protector. In the past, many such fur bearers have been thrown away, and thus wasted.

Since beavers were stocked in Pennsylvania in 1917, the animals have spread and multiplied to such an extent that it has been possible to permit annual harvests beginning in 1934 to the present time, 1935 being the only year excluded. During that period over 15,000 broadtails were taken, all of which meant extra money in the trappers' pockets and extra furs for commercial use.

The Commission also pointed out that according to many trappers beaver meat, if properly cooked, makes a tasty dish.

## UNUSUAL RABBIT NEST

On January 17, while burning brush, Anson A. Grim of Lenhartsville found a rabbit's nest fully lined with fur under a brush pile. This is most unusual.

## DEATH ON THE HIGHWAY

"Sportsmen may point accusing fingers at the fox, denounce him as a predator, and blame him for killing all their small game, but a recent survey made by the Sugar Loaf Rod and Gun Club along *one highway* in Lancaster County seems to push the blame in quite another direction. From March 8 through September 16, sixty-five bunnies were killed on the Marietta Pike between Kinderhook and Lancaster, a distance of 2½ miles, which proves that the automobiles and careless drivers on the Pennsylvania highways deserve as much, or more, censure as any fox, weasel, or hawk.

"We cannot trap automobiles or shoot careless motorists because they are destroying our game. We can only preach caution, and keep preaching caution. Drive carefully. And remember, when you hit a rabbit, pheasant or other small game on the highway, you are just as much a predator as those furry and feathered ones on which the Game Commission pays a bounty!"—Lester C. Mumma, R. 1, Columbia.

Members of Potato Creek Conservation Club, Norwich, with a fine trophy bagged last season. When sending photos of unusually large deer the Commission would like all the information possible as to number of points, size of beam, weight of animal hog-dressed, where and when killed, etc.

## APPOINTED

Howard Zahniser was recently appointed Executive Director of the Wilderness Society with headquarters at 1840 Mintwood Place, N.W., Washington, D. C. We congratulate him on this appointment and welcome him back to conservation work.

## SNOW HELPS DEER

When snow causes starvation in a deer herd, that's not news. But when snow *keeps* deer *from* starving, that *is* news.

Recent wet snows in Pennsylvania did just that. It broke down the tops of many small trees and thus brought within the reach of the deer herd a great deal of browse which otherwise would not have been available.

## Careless Hunters and Accidents

Editor's Note: In spite of the efforts of the Game Commission to promote safer hunting during the past season, the number of accidents was alarmingly high. Nearly 50% of these accidents were self-inflicted. Out of a total of 313 accidents during the season, 35 of them were fatal. Safe hunting is not impossible. Accidents can be avoided and WILL be avoided if hunters are careful. The following list of causes of some of the past season's accidents shows only too plainly that carelessness is the basic reason for most of these tragedies.

Used gun for a club.

Tripped and discharged own gun.

Slipped and fell, and gun accidently discharged.

Carried loaded gun in car. It went off.

Rested muzzle against breast. Gun accidentally discharged.

Shook grapevine. Gun accidently discharged.

Cocked gun accidently discharged.

Carried gun on tractor. Fell.

Slipped and fell and gun accidently discharged.

Stepped in front of gun.

Rested gun against body. It accidently discharged.

Placed gun on shoulder, victim to rear of offender. Gun accidently discharged.

Gun accidently discharged while being loaded.

Shot person in mistake for deer. There were four cases of this reported.

Companion's bullet ricocheted.

Gun, pointed at victim, accidentally discharged.

Shot person in mistake for bear.

Shot person in mistake for woodchuck. Three such cases were reported.

Pulled gun over wall.

Slipped and fell with gun.

A friend of Deputy Game Protector George Willson, Taylor, Pa., brought a souvenir gun to have the ejector fixed. After a close examination, Willson found the ejector was not broken, but that the head space was so great the ejector could not take hold of the rim of the case. He told his friend the gun should not be fired under any condition, but he could see by the expression on his face that he doubted the statement.

Willson took his friend and the gun to his cellar and mounted it in a solid position. He then sketched two eyes, one shut and one open, a nose and mouth on a piece of paper. Then he determined the exact spot where the shooter's eye would be when the gun was discharged. He loaded the gun and gave his friend the paper with the sketch, telling him to hold the open eye at the spot they determined the shooter's' eye would be. He then reached down and touched the gun off. Everything worked, with the exception that the bullet never left the barrel and the case blew out, allowing all the pressure, burnt powder and particles of brass to blow back into the would-be shooter's face.

"The deer kill in this district was fair. Due to heavy snows the first week of the season, the visibility was bad and hunting difficult."—Game Protector William M. Getman, Mansfield, December 1945.

---

"The deer picture in Westmoreland County has changed. Whereas, in past years Laurel Mountain and Chestnut Ridge have been considered by most as the right places to hunt (and these ridges are about the only true deer territory in this county) there were probably twice as many deer killed this season in farming territory over the county as on the mountain and ridge combined."—Game Protector R. D. Reed, Latrobe, December 1945.

---

"Game and weather conditions have made 1945 an unusual year. First we had an unusually late snow last spring which no doubt took its toll of game and song birds. Second, our spring months during the hatching and breeding seasons were continually rainy, killing most of our ground nesting game birds and mammals. Third, never before have there been so many foxes of each kind taking our game. I think the house cat is fairly under control, as few tracks are seen in the snow. Racoons may have caused damage owing to their great numbers. We had two snowy owls killed in the last two months. The hawk population seems to be fairly light. I know of seven Great Horned Owls killed last spring. I was the person who killed three in one day.

"The total number of licenses sold in the county may reach an all-time high. We had three hunting accidents, none fatal.

"Small game seemed scarce. Hunters in the field, with the exception of the first day, were far below average. However, each Saturday it rained, keeping most hunters under cover.

"We have fox hunting groups out each Sunday, and they are taking plenty of each kind of fox. I think our fox population will be pleasingly reduced this spring and summer."—Game Protector Ralph A. Liphart, Homestead, December 1945.

---

"On the first day of deer season the hunters were congested in large numbers in several places, while other spots were almost forsaken. As a whole I believe there were more hunters afield the first couple days than in previous years. After that the hunters were very much less in number than in other years.

"The kill of bucks was not as large as other seasons, but what bucks were bagged seemed to have nicer racks. There were very few small horned deer."—Game Protector Lester J. Haney, Brookville, January 1946.

---

"This fall I have shown several persons how to set traps for foxes and they have done very well. They have caught about 100 foxes, and hope to do better next year.

"During December I saw a number of squirrels, a few grouse and a few quail."—Game Protector Carl B. Benson, Tionesta, December 1945.

---

"My wife and I saw 14 gray squirrels at one time feeding on corn in the yard at the refuge house the other morning."—Game Protector Chester Siegel, Benton, December 1945.

---

"Deer season was quite successful in a district that 20 years ago had no deer. A total of 52 were killed this past season. Some of the animals tipped the scales at 200 pounds hog dressed."—Game Protector Bruce P. Yeager, Northumberland, December 1945.

---

"The deer kill was light. Too many road hunters."—Game Protector Rodman C. Case, Troy, December 1945.

---

"Small game is scarce in this district but not so scarce that we do not have a fair supply of breeding stock left. Rabbits are proving themselves fairly numerous by the tracks in the snow. According to the number of requests for feed for pheasants there is still a fair supply of them also. A resident across the street from my headquarters is feeding five ringneck hens, and this is practically in the heart of the city. When I make a suggestion of trapping birds here in the city people do not like it at all. They say they like to have them around."—Game Protector William R. Overturf, New Castle, December 1945.

---

"Returning to headquarters on December 5 in response to a 'phone call. I found a hunter with two female deer that had been killed with one bullet. In shooting at a legal buck he hit a large doe and when he went up to her, he found that he had shot through the doe and killed a small fawn with the same bullet.

"That same afternoon a party of hunters made a drive on the mountainside and drove several deer down into a valley where an old woven wire fence was located. Two of the deer hit the fence, one breaking its neck and the other its back. I had four dead deer on my hands and only one shot fired. How is that for some kind of record?

---

"The next day the same party of men took time out from their sport to remove the old fence, thereby removing a hazard for game. The same party made the same drive several years ago and two deer were killed in the same manner that time.

"During November a whistling swan made a crash landing in the mountains during a thick fog. The swan was taken to headquarters and fed and rested until the close of small game season. It was released on the Big Loyalsock where it would have a long runway for taking off. It is impossible for swans to take off unless they can make a long run in order to get off the water. This bird's chance of survival was much greater after season, as many hunters mistake a swan for a goose."—Game Protector Earl E. Smith, Williamsport, December 1945.

---

"Hunters this season, for some unknown reason, behaved much better in the fields than in several previous years. Jacklight operations were down to an absolute minimum; only one case was reported. This is understandable when one considers the good feeding facilities in the deep forests which kept deer out of the abandoned fields and farms.

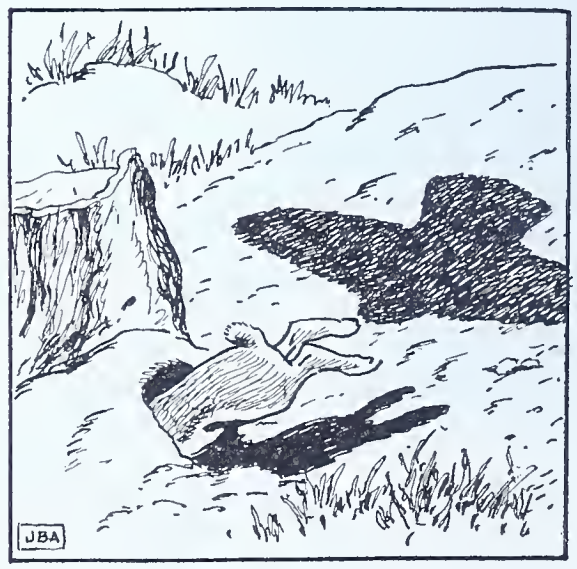
"Very few spike bucks were killed. In fact the great number of deer had from four points up. Residents of this county definitely DO NOT WANT A DOE SEASON this coming year. Posters will again seal off many sections of hunting country if this program goes through."—Game Protector John H. Lohman, Milford, December 1945.

---

"I believe I have a record for the 1945 big game season. Out of six illegal deer, five of them were brought in to my home and hung up and the fine paid. That is what I call cooperation."—W. D. Denton, New Milford, December 1945.

---

"I noticed more dead rabbits on the highways since the close of the season than other years at the same time. I find rabbits are quite plentiful in areas where there are groundhogs. Groundhog holes give the rabbit more protection from hawks, owls and foxes, as the holes are too small for the fox to enter."—Game Protector R. E. Holtzapple, Middleburg, December 1945.



"Several foxes were shot by deer hunters, and I checked a large wildcat that was killed in Bear Valley of the North Mountains. The cats, according to reports, seem to be getting more numerous in this section. I have observed tracks on several occasions."—Game Protector John I. Hendricks, Chambersburg, December 1945.

---

"Although the hunters complained about the scarcity of game, the poll of the hunters shows that there was about a normal kill of small game in Washington County."—Game Protector Carl C. Stainbrook, Washington, December, 1945.

---

"Numerous complaints were received from farmers and sportsmen regarding the number of stray dogs hunting and killing game. Reports and observations reveal an abundance of foxes. Many reports have been received of foxes having killed small game.

"Control measures for the fox population in sections observed is not sufficient to decrease the number. Small game is the bulk of the diet of the fox at this time. Nine fox stomachs examined by this officer all contained remains of rabbits. Rabbits released this month have been checked and observed killed by foxes."—Game Protector Robert D. Parlaman, Charlerol, December, 1945.

---

"Deer Hunting took an upward swing during the holidays and weekends. During the week hunters were scarce. The deer that were killed had nice racks and were in good shape. There were only two illegal kills in the entire district.

"With the number of foxes being killed, rabbits should increase considerably by next fall. A good breeding season is about all that is needed now. Since the snow, I have observed plenty of rabbit signs.

"Trappers are making heavy inroads on the mink population. With minks selling from $20.00 to a new high of $38.00, trappers have gone after them in earnest.

"The winter so far has not been nearly as severe as last year. What little snow that is left is leaving fast."—Game Protector Fred Fisher, Montrose, December, 1945.

"1945 will probably go down in history as the poorest rabbit and ringneck pheasant season in this Division. However, the polls taken of game killed by individual hunters disclose that each hunter averaged nearly five rabbits which, after all, should not be considered as poor hunting. Squirrels, deer, bears and raccoons were plentiful and a good kill was made.

"The Commission's action in setting a late snowshoe rabbit season has met with universal approval. It has put this sport in a special class by itself as it should be.

"Waterfowl hunting this year was also much better than during the 1944 season. Shooting could be heard in the Pymatuning area almost continually from the beginning of the season."—Field Division Supervisor, Hayes T. Englert, Oil City, December, 1945.

---

"Stopped in to talk to Mr. Emery, the taxidermist in Butler. He had quite a number of deer heads in his shop for mounting, and most of them were very nice racks. I was especially surprised to learn that some of the largest racks he had were taken in Butler County.

"Since returning from the Navy I have heard one complaint after another about the scarcity of rabbits this past season, but there seems to be a good number of rabbit tracks in every little patch of brush I have been into this past week."—Game Protector George W. Miller, Conoquenessing, December, 1945.

"We had a very good deer kill this year, and plenty of hunters. There were no accidents and only one arrest due to deer hunting. I have never seen the hunters so law-abiding in my life. I believe the credit should go to the safety warnings given deer hunters, and safety signs and rules and regulations posters tacked up throughout this section. The fact that there were six of us officers patrolling the section may also have had something to do with it."—Game Protector Ambrose Gerhart, Souderton, December 1945.

---

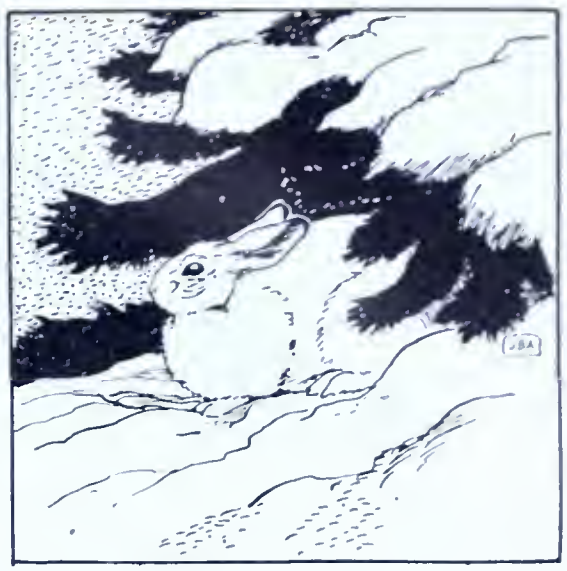
"Tracks in the snow indicate that there are plenty of deer left in my district. Small game is scarce, but foxes are seen almost every day in the farming sections."—Game Protector Thomas A. Mosier, Bellefonte, December 1945.

---

"The past hunting season was the poorest in the years that I have been with the Game Commission. We had a fair kill of bucks but outside of that, our season was almost a failure. Rabbits, quail and grouse were very scarce. Turkeys were fair. I think the heavy snows of last winter took a heavy toll. I also believe that a disease has killed off some of the rabbits for I am certain we had more of them last spring than we had this fall."—Game Protector Miles Reeder, Lock Haven, December 1945.

---

"I've received several requests for feed by persons who report having ringneck pheasants coming in to feed. There are several nice flocks of pheasants in Clarks Green left for seed stock. As usual the ones most interested in their welfare during the winter are the fair sex, who see that they are fed and are not keen on having them shot."—Game Protector Francis E. Jenkins, Chinchilla, December 1945.




"The snowshoe rabbit hunting seems to be very popular at this time of year. Deep snow is no bother to most of the hunters, but it is hard for the dogs to run. A good many hunters go without dogs and still hunt by trailing the rabbit. This method works very well because the snowshoe has a habit of sitting under old brush piles and beside old tree stumps.

"Last week a big 8-point buck got stuck in the ice while trying to cross the river. He walked out on the ice and broke through. Then one antler got caught under the ice and the buck drowned.

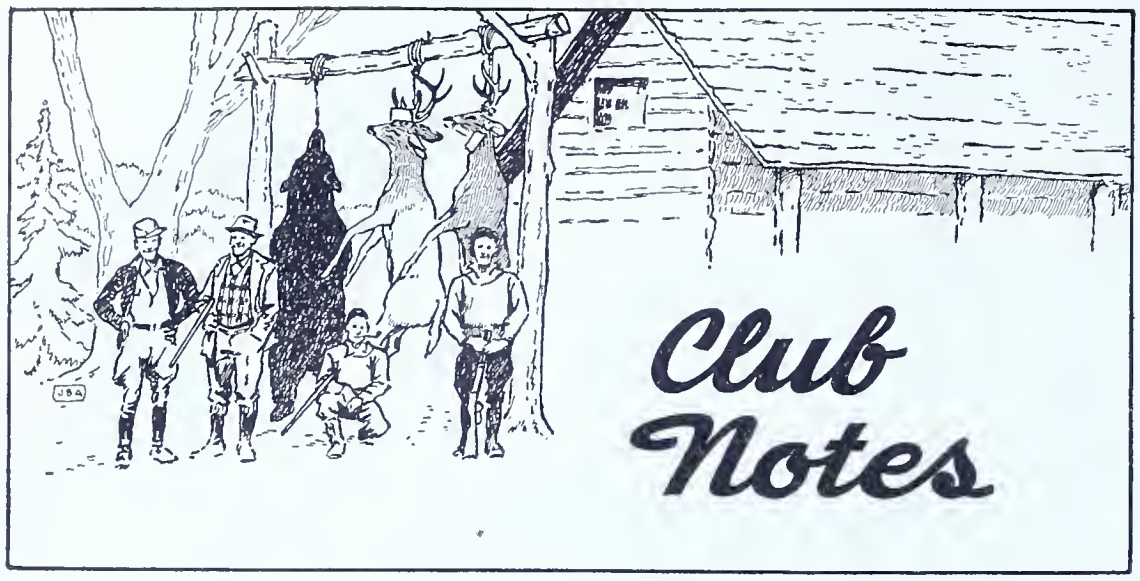
"One albino deer was killed in this district. It had pink eyes and was pure white even to its hooves. It weighed 85 pounds and had three points."—Game Protector George H. Burdick, Tidioute, December 1945.

---

"The kill of bucks in Forest County was very satisfactory. The racks were exceptionally big and the deer were very fat. Acorns were plentiful in timbered areas and there are now very large areas of good browse, due to cutting operations over the past few years.

"It appears that we have lost all of the Canadian geese and most all of the ducks that have always wintered here at the spillway. After the lake froze over the ducks and geese were forced to come to the spillway for what little open water there was left and to get the grain that we fed them. I counted over two hundred geese and more than four hundred ducks. However, since the season for hunting was not over, hunters concentrated in that area and waited all day for the geese to fly, and every move they made they were shot at. After so much of this they were afraid to come in to the spillway for the grain we put out, and sat on the ice out in the middle of the lake. The constant vigil of the hunters kept up and as a result all that we have left at the spillway are about forty ducks. I guess the geese and ducks thought it would be more comfortable in some other location and have apparently gone south with their kin."—Game Protector Raymond Sickles, Linesville, December 1945.

*(Continued on page 26)*



Twelve members belong to the above club located on Route 607 at Gouldsboro, Pa. Photo by Frank R. Millers, Scranton, Secretary of the club.

The Delaware County Field and Stream Association has asked each member to lend the club $5.00 toward the purchase of a club site. Additional funds are being raised by a raffle.

This energetic club is installing a skeet outfit on the club property and has already had some trap shoots. They charge $1.85 for 25 clay targets, and plan to use this money toward the purchase of the property.

The property is costing the Delaware boys $5500, and they are working zealously to raise that amount. Good luck, fellows!

---

The Clinton County Fish and Game Association, which is probably the largest single club in the state this year with over 4000 members, has been doing a fine job. Last winter they dropped corn from the air for deer and turkeys in snow-blanketed forest areas that were otherwise inaccessible. About 900 bushels of corn and 20 tons of other food were distributed for wildlife by this club during the past winter.

Last year they also trapped and transferred over 100 rabbits. They raised about 1500 ringneck pheasants.

Let us hope that such aggressive clubs will multiply in every corner of the State.

---

The Lehigh County Fish and Game Protective Association is "going to town" on rabbit trapping. Within the first two weeks of trapping in the city limits of Allentown, the Lehigh boys took 250 cottontails.

Last winter 1,259 rabbits and 200 adult pheasants were taken in the Allentown area and transferred to hunting territory. This year the Lehigh club hopes to break that record.

This organization reported a sum of $1,058.30 in their Living Memorial Fund on December 28. Of this amount $558.30 was donated by individual sportsmen, showing a fine spirit of cooperation.

The Berks County Chapter of the Izaak Walton League is urging its members to back the Johnny Appleseed project 100% to furnish food and cover for wildlife and naturally check soil erosion. In their monthly bulletin they list shrubs, vines and trees that are approved by conservationists as best for these purposes and explain to their members WHY they should get behind this undertaking.

---

The Southeastern Division of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's clubs are urging members to do all they can to further the Farm-Game Program. Hunting is a sport in which the supply never exceeds the demand. No community has enough public shooting areas. One of the best ways to create good will among the landowners is to get their cooperation through established farm game projects.

---

During the "Hunt Safely" campaign the Myerstown Rod and Gun Association distributed safety posters in the schools, stores and surrounding territory. The club also gave Safety Zone and Men Working in Field signs to the farmers in their district.

---

The Littlestown Fish and Game Association started the New Year right by becoming a member of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen.

At their meeting December 26 the Littlestown club was admitted to the Federation. At the same meeting they elected the following officers: President, W. E. Stites; first vice-president, Samuel Fissel; second vice-president, Milton Harner; treasurer, Theron W. Spangler; secretary, Richard Knipple; field men, Bernard Dillman, Melvin B. Wehler, and Charles W. Weikert, Jr.; trustee for 5 years, Dr. J. R. Riden.

Karl Bankert was nominated to represent Adams County as a delegate to the Federation meetings. Walter B. Crouse was named as alternate.

Carl A. White, of the Armstrong County Sportsmen's Association, gives us these "Ten Ways to Kill a Sportsmen's Club."

1. Don't attend meetings. If you do, come late.
2. Always find fault with the officers and members.
3. Never accept any office. If you do, then don't do anything.
4. Be sure to talk during the meeting, but not to the audience.
5. If asked for your opinion, keep quiet. But tell everyone after the meeting.
6. Do as little as you can. When others work unselfishly be sure to howl that the club is run by a clique.
7. Belittle your club at every opportunity and apologize for its work.
8. Never bring guests or try to get new members but be sure to mention around your community the club is dying.
9. Object to all changes and insist they are for the worst.
10. The night after the meeting, tell everyone how things ought to be done, but refuse to take any active part yourself.

Now we know how *not* to behave if we want to keep a sportsmen's club *alive!*

---

Allentown sportsmen made early plans this year to trap rabbits from Victory gardens, watersheds, parks, etc. of the city and transfer them to rural areas.

Operations started immediately after the close of deer season and are being continued through January, February and as much of March as weather conditions will permit.

The familiar green box traps are baited with apples, if available, and placed in sections where the greatest damage was reported. The entire city is covered systematically through the detailed programs worked out by the boys.

Last year Allentown sportsmen lead all other cities of the Commonwealth by trapping 1,259 rabbits. They hope to hold the record again this year.

---

The Elderton District Sportsmen's Club held a chicken shoot on New Years Day.

---

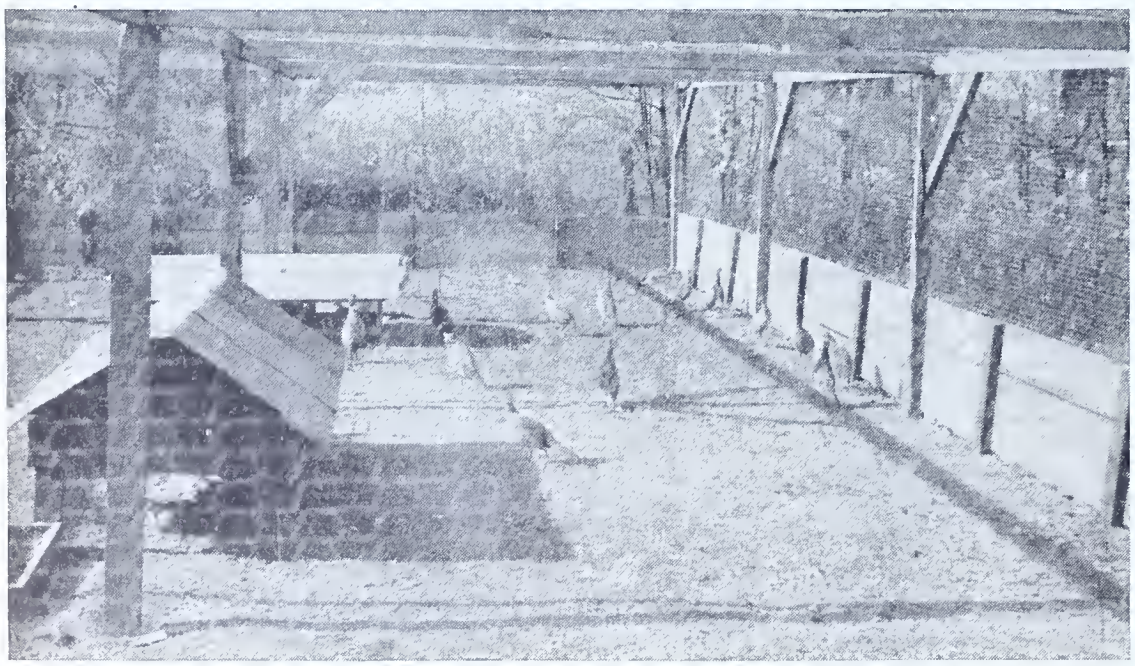
The Buffalo Valley Sportsmen's Association is going to purchase 100 rabbits and report a membership of over 300. So far this club has paid bounty on 11 foxes killed in their area at $2.50 per head.

---

The Armstrong County Hunting and Fishing Club held its reorganization meeting on January 3. Harry Shelling takes the helm. These boys have dandy lighted rifle and pistol ranges outdoors and Harry says he is going to light the Skeet field also. He also plans on getting this club to raise ringnecks.

---

The Rayburn Rod and Gun Club was sponsor of the first fox hunt of the Armstrong County Sportsmen's League on Sunday, January 6. About 200 sportmen attended, as the weather was perfect. After the fox hunt the ladies served lunch at the clubhouse. After the hunt, the men shot mark at protected targets. The affair was a great success.



Some of the pheasants being held for spring release by the Jenners Rod and Gun Club. Melvin Younkin, Chairman of the Game Committee, and Frank Zeleski, an active club member, raised 128 full-grown birds out of 150 day-old chicks—their first attempt.

Photo by Arthur N. Frantz.
**Boys of Tannersville school with some of the 206 pheasants raised to 9 weeks of age by the Pocono Future Farmers of America Chapter under the supervision of Mr. Montgomery.**

The Armstrong County Sportsmen's League held their first county-wide fox hunt on January 6. This hunt was the first of a series to be held in various sections of Armstrong County during January and February.

Awards of $20, $10, and $5 will be paid to the club killing the greatest number of foxes. In addition to these awards, Henry Bevington of the Rayburn Rod and Gun Club is offering a $10 award to the PERSON killing the greatest number of foxes in Rayburn Township.

With these incentives, the Armstrong County boys should account for a lot of predators this winter.

---

Members of the Lavelle Fish and Game Club have just spent $144 for 12 crates of rabbits which are being stocked in the woods and fields of that area. The money was raised through a raffle and each club member who sold two books received one rabbit to stock in any spot he chose. Thomas James sold 32 books and received 16 rabbits.

---

For the first time women were invited to join the East End Sportsmen's Association of Sunbury at the club's annual turkey dinner December 11.

Features of the banquet were talks by Seth Gordon, Executive Director of the Game Commission; C. A. French, Commissioner of Fisheries; Thomas F. Bell, Field Division Supervisor; J. Allen Barrett, Lecturer of the Fish Commission and A. S. Snyder, Fish Warden.

---

Mr. VanHorn, Manager for the Philadelphia Sport Show, sponsored by the Philadelphia *Record*, to be held at the Convention Hall from March 8 to 16, 1946, offered the Southeastern Division of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs an opportunity to set up an exhibit gratis. The following committee was appointed to plan the exhibit; Mrs. E. A. Dietrich, Roy Angst, and Leroy F. Manning.

---

Mayor John Paulus, Nanticoke, and other members of Camp 272, United Sportsmen of Pennsylvania, joined officials from the State Fish Hatcheries recently and planted 25,000 fish in all sections of Nuangola Lake. A major portion of the fish were "legal size."

This is the first of three shipments of fish for Nuangola, Silkworth and Silvan Lakes.

The stocking program was launched by Camp 272 under the direction of Fred Searles, president, and Jack Opachinski, fish and game chairman, and was given a big impetus last summer by Mayor Paulus.

Through news releases in the local newspapers, this club is urging members and other interested sportsmen and conservationists in the district to get behind restocking, game feeding, predator control and other conservation aims.

"Give us passing resolutions, stop knocking your game department, go to work, have definite objectives and put your time and best efforts in solving this game problem," is the advice of Camp 272.

---

The Ford City Sportsmen's Association has set a definite date for the purchase of 12 dozen rabbits. These boys have a standing order at a nearby feed store for the purchase of grain and hay for feeding game this winter. Scouts and sportsmen will do the feeding when weather warrants it.

On a mimeographed sheet sent to each of its members recently, the East End Blue Rock and Sportsmen's Club, Milroy, asked members to check which of the following activities they wished the club to sponsor.

Purchase suitable location and construct Club House.

Put all available funds into rabbits for stocking.

Put all available into ringnecks for stocking.

Put all available funds into quail for stocking.

Go into registered field trials for birds dogs in a big way.

Go into registered field trials for beagles in a big way.

Pay an additional bounty on foxes killed locally.

Pay a bounty on crows killed.

Pay a reward to boys and girls for water snakes they kill and turn in the tails.

Form a large, registered, trap-shooting club.

Buy equipment and start a skeet-shooting club.

Go all-out for stream improvement ond more fish.

Purchase land and raise all ringnecks and quail possible.

Purchase location and raise trout for restocking.

Space was left at the bottom of the sheet for additional ideas. The mimeographed sheet is a good idea, as it gives every member a chance to express himself, and lets the club officers know what each man wants to do with the club funds.

---

During the second year of its existence, the Fulton County Sportsmen's League purchased grain for distribution and assisted in distributing food furnished by the Commission during the cold weather; assisted in distributing more than 10,000 legal size fish in the county; paid bounties on approximately 200 watersnake tails; raised and released 130 ringnecks, and held 30 for spring release; purchased 34 dozen Missouri cottontails for release in the late winter; and planted and cultivated several acres of corn and buckwheat to be used as game food. They also held foxhunts, a banquet, a picnic and a shooting match. The club feels that its accomplishments were limited only by finances and membership, which is slightly over 200.

---

The Carlisle Fish and Game Association has done big things in the past two years, in spite of wartime restrictions. The amount of money in the treasury has swelled from $100 to $4,000 since 1943. They have purchased a farm for raising game, especially pheasants, and for the use of the sportsmen.

Membership of the club is now 500 and the boys hope to add 500 more in the next two years.

The Carlisle club gives credit to the Harrisburg Hunters and Anglers Association for some mighty fine tips toward building a successful sportsmen's organization.

**Junior Sportsmen of Sandy Ridge, members of the Junior 4-F League of Centre County in front of their club house. These boys, under the supervision of their director, Mr. James L. Umholtz, have carried on many worthwhile conservation projects.**

The Summit Hill Rod and Gun Club responded enthusiastically to Governor Martin's proclamation of "Hunt Safely Week."

The club had Robert Steventon, one of the Commission's part-time lectures, give a talk on safe hunting over Station WAZL at Hazleton. The Summit Hill boys also sponsored the printing of the proclamation in all the leading newspapers of Carbon County, and a display in Joseph Arner's Hardware Store.

Members of the club posted safety signs and forest fire signs in hunting areas throughout Carbon County.

Let's congratulate the boys for their fine work in helping to make Carbon County hunters more safety conscious.

---

Floyd E. Bitler of 653 N. Irving St., Allentown, has been named chairman of the 1946 membership committee for the Lehigh County Fish and Game Protective Association. Mr. Bitler was selected because of his interest in civic affairs in the community.

Franklyn Gergits, a member of the executive board, will assist the new chairman in his program of activities for the coming year. Gergits was chairman of the membership commitee last year when the local group numbered 2,888 and gained the honor of being the largest club of its kind in Eastern Pennsylvania.

*(Continued on page 31)*

Photo by Ellen A. Dietrich.
**Members of the Holmesburg Fish and Game Protective Association of Philadelphia helping Acting District Game Protector George Freas, extreme left, to remove equipment from a Game Commission truck preparatory to "setting up" for a rabbit drive in Philadelphia during the past trapping season.**

# TRANSACTIONS OF THE COMMISSION MEETING

(Continued from Page 9)

Photo by W. L. R. Drake.

**Field officers are helping reduce the predator population through assiduous trapping. Above, a Game Protector starts out on a trap-line.**

$16,774.00 was paid out for 1,495 weasels; 3,401 gray foxes; no red foxes; 20 goshawks; and 439 great horned owls.

Since the first of January bounty claims have been very heavy, and that indications are the total amount required for the payment of bounties for the fiscal year may exceed the high all-time record of $134,322.50 paid during the fiscal year 1921-22.

In the Committee Chairman's opinion the excellent progress made in the reduction of predator populations was due largely to the efforts of Messrs. Harold L. Plasterer and Arthur G. Logue, who covered the entire Commonwealth giving instructions to the Commission's own officers and others, also to the energetic work of the field officers themselves. He recommended a special ltter of commendation be sent to Messrs. Plasterer and Logue, in which the Commission, upon appropriate motion, concurred.

*Research*—A further conference in connection with the Federal-Aid Mammal Survey was held in President Leffler's office in Pittsburgh on October 20, a revised project was submitted to the Federal authorities for consideration, and the staff was instructed to follow the matter diligently in an effort to obtain approval of the project at an early date. This project will constitute the most thorough mammal and general ecological survey ever made in the Commonwealth.

*Game News Susbscription rates* were increased to $1.00 per year, $1.50 for two years and $2.00 for three years regardless of residence, with a 50c per year group rate in lots of ten or more for sportsmen's organizations that desire to include the magazine as a part of their membership fee. If clubs do not desire to make it a part of their regular membership dues they can merely collect the additional fee from those members who desire the NEWS when the dues are paid. The increase becomes effective July 1, 1946. The principal reason for increasing the rate is to enable the Commission to improve the publication from the standpoint of text, illustrations, paper, etc., and help pay the operating expenses for which the present subscription fee is inadequate.

*Visual Aids*—The Commission approved the preparation of 10,000 each of four wall charts on birds for use in schools, the art work to be executed by Jacob Bates Abbott, at a cost of approximately $15,000 for the 40,000 charts. The method of distribution will be decided later. These charts will be one of the finest contributions to elementary bird study in the schools. They will be of a size (20″ x 30″) that can conveniently be hung anywhere in the classroom.

*Publication Policy*—In the future all articles dealing with controversial questions shall be prefixed with an editor's note to the effect that they do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Game Commission but are the opinions of the authors.

A suggestion that articles affecting Commission policy be submitted either to the Public Relations Committee or to Standing Committees interested in specified phases of the work for approval before publishing is being studied and will probably be acted upon at the next meeting.

The desirability of publishing from time to time special art inserts of outstanding covers (past and current) to be included in the Game News on a quality of paper suitable for framing shall be studied and discussed later.

A proposal to purchase approximately 10,000 one-half to three-quarter life-size cardboard figures in full color of a hunter holding up a couple of ringnecks with the slogan "Hunt Safely—Return Safely", for use in an expanded safety campaign this coming fall was held in abeyance pending further consideration.

*Finances*—The Commission's attention was called to the fact that at the end of December the balance in the State Treasury was slightly over $3,000,000, including a Wartime Reserve of $1,367,000, but without deducting commitments for lands and other obligations.

*1946 Hunter's Licenses*—850,000 resident and 30,000 non-resident hunter's licenses were approved for purchase. The tags will be made of 20-point vulcanized fibre. The resident licenses will have a canary background with jet black numerals, whereas the non-resident will be on ivory stock with dark red numerals.

*Reinstatements*—The Commission approved the reinstatement and welcomed the return from military service of Game Protectors Clinton A. Ganster, William A. Moyer, Clair W. Dinger, George L. Norris, James L. Latimer, William R. Overturf, Lloyd B. Welch, Clyde W. Decker, John S. Shuler, Robert D. Parlaman, and Daniel H. Fackler; Robert D. McDowell, Division of Research, Delbert L. Batcheler, Division of Public Information, and William A. Miller, Division of Accounting and Budget.

Photo by Wm. C. Grimm.

**More marsh lands were purchased to provide more nesting and feeding areas around the Pymatuning Waterfowl Sanctuary.**

*Decrements for Employes in Enrolled Field Service*—The Commission amended a former resolution concerning salary increments for field employes to provide also for decrements in cases where employes receiving maximum salaries fail to perform service of quality equal to that required of fellow officers to merit advancement. The amendment to the resolution is as follows:

WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Game Commission's annual increment plan for officers in the Enrolled Field Service, operating in accordance with Executive Board approval of July 2, 1936 (amended and revised January 1, 1939 and August 1, 1940), has improved the general efficiency, encouraged superior public service, and bolstered the morale of its entire field organization; also provides for elimination from the staff of those employes who for two successive years fail to earn annual increments because they have not discharged their duties in an efficient manner; and

WHEREAS, The plan currently in operation does not impel those officers who have reached the top of their grade (now comprising 22% of the total regular field staff) to maintain the highest possible standard of performance, nor does it provide for reduction in rank or removal from the rolls of any such employes who may habitually neglect their duties;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That hereafter, as of the date when the annual increments for the employes in the Enrolled Field Service become payable, any officer who, after having reached the top of his established grade, failed during the previous fiscal year to perform service of a quality equal to that required of fellow officers to merit advancement, *shall be demoted in grade*, such demotion not to exceed one salary grade annually; and any such employe who has been demoted for two years in succession shall be cited before the Trial Board to show cause why he should not be dismissed from the service on grounds of inefficiency and neglect of duty, in the same manner as officers are now cited when they fail to earn their authorized annual increments for a like period.

*Training School*—Approximately $4,000 was approved to purchase equipment and supplies, etc., for the Training School, and consideration is also being given to heating the buildings with natural gas.

A Class 'B' membership in the National Rifle Association also was approved for the School. This will enable the Commission to purchase shooting supplies at reduced rates and assure an N. R. A. instructor in rifle and pistol shooting as needed free of charge.

*Wildlife Conference*—Approval was granted for twelve persons to officially attend the North American Wildlife Conference to be held at the Hotel Pennsylvania, New York, March 11, 12 and 13.

*Next Meeting*—The next meeting of the Commission will be held late in April, the time and place to be determined later.

*Accomplishments for 1945*

The Land Acquisition Program included the following: 37 land purchase contracts, including one exchange of land, which was an exception to the general policy of the Commission, were consummated totalling 40,100.3 acres and costing $100,019.61 or an average of $2.49 per acre.

189 unit blocks of State Game Lands are now distributed through 63 of the 67 counties. The aggregate area is 817,912.3 acres for which $3,052,245.50 was paid, a general average of $3.73 per acre.

The consummation of 22 contracts covering a total of 22,782.5 acres having an estimated consideration of $82,479 are pending. A few of these will probably never be completed because of title discrepancies.

More than a hundred tracts of land offered for sale were examined and reported upon but options were not secured for all of them. Twenty-five (25) were accepted for a total of 21,581 acres at an estimated cost of $89,014.41. Eleven (11) were rejected, and action on many others postponed.

Photo by C. G. Krieble.

It is hoped to lumber or thin off up to 5% of State Game Lands annually to provide more game food and cover.

Photo by C. G. Krieble.

Numerous thinnings were made to provide additional food and cover for deer and forest small game.

What may be considered a major accomplishment was entering into a land purchase contract with the Kaul and Hall Oil and Gas Company and the Kaul Land Company for 16,012 acres in Bensinger Twp., Elk County.

Agitation during the course of many years toward having the Commission purchase swamp and marshes for wild waterfowl hunting and fur trapping led to concerted efforts to secure options covering many tracts within four selected areas in Crawford and Butler Counties. Much time and money was spent on the part of field and staff officers and two special land agents but the results were not overly satisfactory since many owners were not particularly anxious to sell and asked more than the Commission considered their properties worth.

Boundary line surveys of 31 tracts under contract for purchase totalling 16,754 acres were made during the year. This involved running 312 miles of line to establish 162.5 miles of boundaries.

Twenty-two (22) miles of boundary lines were re-surveyed for painting and posting and 7.2 miles to settle boundary disputes.

Reconnaissance surveys were made of 56 proposed dam sites and other water impounding areas, including five topographic surveys of such sites.

Ten (10) licenses for right-of-way were granted.

The Cooperative Farm-Game Program now includes 68 projects comprising 2,034 farms totalling 162,575 acres. Four projects were discontinued but no new ones arranged for.

Only 45 Auxiliary Refuge Projects comprising 53 tracts totalling 36,034 acres are now functioning. Seven were discontinued and one established.

There are now 83 Propagation Areas comprising 100 tracts totalling 25,102 acres in operation. One was discontinued and one added.

One Dog Training Preserve was established.

Game management activities included:

Probably the most important single accomplishment in the game management program is timber operations and cuttings. During the year this resulted in an income of $62,438.80 for 4,934,489 board feet saw timber; 3,072 tons mine props; 623 cords, pulp and chemical wood; 14,596 poles and posts; 502 cords firewood; 25,000 grape stakes; and 80 stills birch oil.

Over 4,000 miles of boundaries, roads, fire trails, and refuges were constructed and maintained, including cutting, painting, tagging, mowing, posting, etc.

420 acres of game lands were contour stripped, and 404 food plots planted.

Share Cropping agreements were secured for 671 acres, approximately one-third of which is the Commission's share, including 5,338 bushels of grain and 4 tons of timothy hay received for winter feeding purposes. Sixty-seven acres were sown to clover and 75 acres to rye grass seed. In many instances the Commission's share of the grain was left standing for food and cover.

*(Continued on page 29)*

# NOTES FROM THE FIELD

(From Page 21)

"The past deer season was the best we have had for five years. There were more deer and more hunters. Since the season is over I have been along the mountains and found plenty of tracks.

"I have found that there are plenty of rabbits left for breeding and, according to reports, there are plenty of pheasants, too.

"So far the weather has not been bad for game, except squirrels. They are having a hard time finding food, although I am glad to say there is a lot of corn standing out in the shock that will help both squirrels and pheasants.

"I am still learning of crippled deer running around in the mountains. I had to kill one small doe. I've had some reports of dogs chasing deer."—Game Protector Leo E. Bushman, Gettysburg, December 1945.

---

"There seems to be a fair amount of small game left after the season. There were a good many deer killed in this district, some very nice bucks. Most hunters reported seeing numerous doe deer on the Blue mountain, and a great many of the deer hunters were pot hunting with not much organized driving being done. Much of this hunting was done along the foot of the mountain and not much on the tops where it seemed the deer drifted, apparently knowing they were fairly safe. There is a good supply of deer left."—Game Protector, E. J. Turner, Centerport, December, 1945.

---

"During the past season I found fewer hunters in both the small and large game seasons than last year. Small game was scarce.

"During the deer season there was less hunting done than during any season in the last twenty-one years. Most of the hunters were 'still' hunting and very few drivers were heard or observed. However, the deer that were killed were fine specimens."—Game Protector W. C. Achey, Weatherly, December, 1945.

---

"The 1945 deer season was very successful in Armstrong County. There was a large kill of legal buck deer with nice racks. I would estimate that at least 50% of the deer killed had racks of eight or more points."—Game Protector W. J. Brion, Kittanning, December, 1945.

---

"We had a very successful hunting season on both small and large game this year. The kill of legal deer was fair and the antlers were better than last year. There were no accidents in my district."—Game Protector Millard M. Crooks, Somerset, December, 1945.

---

"The results of the past deer season were very gratifying. We had a very light kill of bucks and all signs point to a very nice carry-over of deer for next year, barring anything unforseen. The hunters were not nearly as numerous as we expected, consequently men were not in the woods to drive the deer around, and we had a poor kill. Most men preferred to hunt along the roads. Quite a few bears were routed in deer season but other game was reported quite scarce."—Game Protector Clyde E. Laubach, Clearfield, December, 1945.

"Besides killing more deer than in previous years, deer hunters had plenty of fun this season shooting at foxes."—Game Protector John Spencer, Orwigsburg, December 1945.

---

"There was a very good deer season within the county this year. The deer seem to be very much on the increase and are now branching out into all sections of the district. The best sections are in Ohio and South Beaver Townships along the Ohio line. Within a couple years we will have to have a doe season to cut down the surplus. This past year I have had several deer damage complaints and more of the animals are being killed by automobiles each year."—Game Protector J. Bradley McGregor, Beaver, December 1945.

---

"We had a very good deer season here. Some very fine specimens were taken around Norwich. Some people were of the opinion that about all the bucks were cleaned out around Norwich. I was in that vicinity putting out game food on December 29 and observed three bucks and five does feeding in Mr. Allan Hydes back yard, so I feel we still have a few bucks left."—Game Protector Claude B. Kelsey, Port Allegany, December 1945.

---

"The deer season ended with a good kill. They were larger than last year and the racks were larger too. The animals were in good condition this season and much fatter than in previous seasons. Even though there was a large kill in the district there are plenty of them left for breeding stock. The hunters in the field were satisfied with the deer hunting which made up for some of the complaints about the small game season.

"Snowshoe rabbit season was a successful one with a good kill, and plenty left over for next season. The hunters were well pleased with the season opening when it did, and are looking forward to the season the same time next year.

"The snow that has covered the district has not harmed the game as yet. The deer are still able to dig through the crust for food and I don't believe the food situation will bother them much, as there are a lot of slash cuttings that will furnish good browse for them."—Game Protector Floyd A. Beck, Venus, December, 1945.

---

"Deer season opened with a good number of hunters out, but they did their hunting along roads and trails and would not get into the woods. By the end of the first week there were very few hunters in the woods. A lot of the hunters got lost. All got out in good shape but some of them had some experiences. We had no accidents in this section."—Game Protector William G. Matthews, Rector, December 1945.

---

"On two different days I sat down to complete this report and was interrupted by the sound of dogs chasing deer. It seems I will be compelled to eliminate dogs again the way I did last winter, because of carelessness on the part of the owners and laxity on the part of dog enforcement officers."—Game Protector Elmer Pilling, Philipsburg, December 1945.

"Natural food is scarce over the entire division in the lowlands due to late heavy frosts. Some sections have a fair crop of acorns and wild grapes on highlands. Due to weather conditions, it has been necessary to start artificial feeding during the latter part of December.

"Although we had a larger kill than last year, reports from field officers indicate that we have a good supply of deer left over. Reports show that we will have a fair amount of turkeys and squirrels for the coming breeding season. Rabbits, quail, grouse and ringnecks are not too plentiful for breeding stock. Quail are very scarce."—Field Division Supervisor W. J. Davis, Huntingdon, December, 1945.

---

"The deer kill was quite light in this district although since the season has ended there is hardly anytime during the day that a buck cannot be spotted on the steep hillsides along Drury Run, Halls Run or Kettle Creek. Apparently the hunters did not drive the back country and the deer are now moving out on the sides.

"We have lots of turkeys left. As in the past, they are beginning to come out along the railroads for grain and are being killed by trains. I have reliable information that seven were killed at one time by the PRR Flier at Round Island Run."—Game Protector Vern A. VanOrder, Renova, December, 1945.

---

"I have never seen as many hunters in the field during the first few days of deer season as I saw this year. Everyone who could get away at all was hunting, even though it was only for part of a day. Almost every day hunters were seen crossing the Monongahela River from Fayette County to Greene County looking for deer that have taken up residence in Dunkard and Monongahela Townships. I believe the bucks were pretty well cleaned out but there are approximately 100 does left in that section.

"More minks are being caught this year than I have even known."—Game Protector John F. Blair, Waynesburg, December, 1945.

---

"Game conditions are not very good in this district, although the hunters did not complain. They are doing all they can to feed and protect what stock we have left. I am receiving very good reports about the turkeys and rabbits. Foxes are plentiful. Almost every hunter is out trying to get them when he has a day off from work."—Game Protector Ralph E. McCoy, Lewistown, December 1945.

---

"The heavy snowfall just prior to deer season made tough hunting throughout this district but it furnished a lot of food for the deer by breaking limbs from many trees and bending others over so the deer could reach them."—Game Protector Cecil D. Hancock, Port Allegany, December 1945.

---

"Hare hunters were scarce throughout the season. I met three groups who reported having had some success, but most of the men complained that they could not find any rabbits."—Game Protector L. B. Rosenkrans, Wilcox, December 1945.

*(Continued on page 30)*

# The Past, Present and Future of the Pymatuning

(From Page 5)

a good supply of food available, the Pymatuning will attract thousands of those winging their way south. Yes, the ducks are safe from the fowler's guns while they are *on the refuge*. The primary purpose of such an area is to save the birds, of course, but in a large measure it serves to attract many which would simply pass by. The birds may concentrate in the refuge area but they do venture out and the refuge, in the long run, makes for better hunting on all of the neighboring marsh and lake areas. There is no logical reason why the Pymatuning Refuge cannot thus serve its original purpose well throughout the years to come.

Photo by Wm. C. Grimm.

**The amount of desirable nesting cover can be greatly increased and we may reasonably expect to produce more mallards and black ducks in the area.**

REFERENCES


1928. Sutton, George M. Birds of Pymatuning Swamp and Conneaut Lake. Annals of the Carnegie Museum, Vol. XVIII, No. 1, March.

1940. Trimble, Ruth. Bird life at Pymatuning Lake. Annals of the Carnegie Museum, Vol. XXVIII, pp. 83-132.

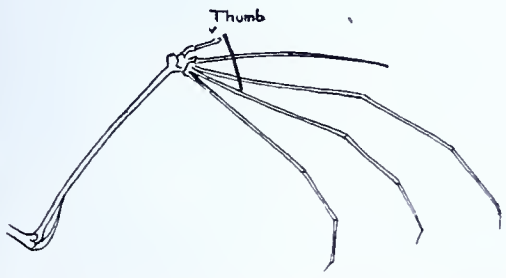
1934. Netting, M. Graham, and William R. Van Dersal. The Future of the Ecology of Pymatuning Swamp. The Cardinal, Vol. III, No. 7, pp. 151-163.

1944. Aldrich, John W., Francis M. Uhler, et al. Waterfowl-food problems on the Pymatuning Migratory Bird and Upland Game Refuge, and nearby areas in western Crawford County, Pennsylvania. (mimeographed).

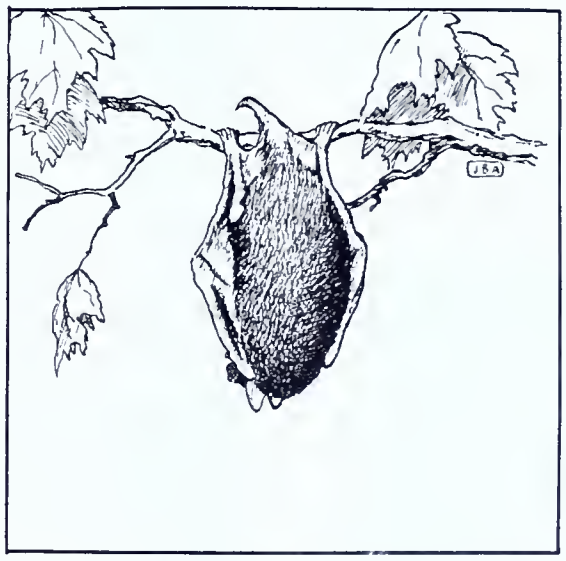

# BATS

(From Page 13)

and tautly stretched across a room. Of course he makes an occasional mistake and bumps into something, but this is the exception, rather than the rule. On September 2, 1944, while vacationing at a small summer resort on Lake Erie, 5 miles north of Geneva, Ashtabula County, Ohio, I happened upon two little Brown Bats *(Myotis lucifugus lucifugus)* hopelessly tangled on a single burdock. By the time I found them they were dead, but by a stroke of good fortune Dr. James P. Chapin of the American Museum of Natural History was with me and photographed them for me. On three other occasions I had found the bodies of bats in the same clump of burdocks, which is located at the entrance to an old cow barn. It is hard to understand why the bats flew so low that their wings touched the burdock heads, but it has been suggested that they might possibly be returning to their roost in the bottom of the barn, via a ground level window, when a wing-tip touched the thistle and stuck. The bat would then struggle to free itself, and the struggle would result in a tragic entanglement. It is also possible that in following insects which hover among the burdocks bats may occasionally graze thistles, with the same deadly results. This latter explanation seems to me most probable. Fear and panic may also play a large part in the blunders which bats make. It is interesting to note that the principle upon which the now-famous instrument of war, radar, is based, is the principle which enables the bat to fly in the dark with uncanny precision. Much experimental work has been done to ascertain the manner in which these animals avoid obstacles. It has been only recently, however, that the facts in the case were learned. It seems that as the bat flies he emits very high-pitched squeaks, far above the level heard by human ears, and these sounds are reflected from obstacles in the form of air waves, which warn the animal of danger and enable him to swerve in time. There is little doubt of the validity of these findings, for blind bats avoid obstacles with ease, and those who cannot smell are equally skillful; but those that have been deprived of their hearing are clumsy and blundering in flight!




**The so-called "wing" is merely a modified forearm and hand, covered with a thin membrane. An interesting development is the thumb, which is always free, and helps to hook the animal along when crawling.**



**When a sufficient meal has been obtained it retires to its retreat, hangs himself up—head down—and resumes his sleep.**

In Pennsylvania we may expect to find eleven different kinds of bats. There are four types of the Little Brown Bat *(Myotis)*, the common Big Brown Bat *(Eptesicus)*, which is frequently found in houses, the Silver-haired Bat *(Lasionycteris)*, two forms of the Pygmy Bat *(Pipistrellus)*, the Northern Red Bat and the Hoary Bat, both members of the genus *Lasiurus*, and the Twilight Bat *(Nycticeius)*. All of these forms are beneficial and should be encouraged and welcomed rather than destroyed wherever found.

---

## RETIRES

Adolph P. Toepperwein, aged 76 of Leon Springs, Texas, unchallenged holder of the greatest shooting record ever made at aerial targets, has retired after 56 years of professional exhibition shooting in which he has never had a single shooting accident.

Toepperwein's greatest feat was performed at the Fair Grounds in San Antonio, Texas, in 1906. In twelve days of shooting he missed only nine out of 72,500 targets and decisively smashed the greatest previous record of 60,000 out of 60,650 targets made by Dr. W. F. Carver, world famous marksman of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. No one since has ever attempted to try for Toepperwein's record, which will probably stand for all time.

# WINTER IN THE POCONOS

*(From Page 3)*

came to a close. We had some lunch, then turned to our little battery-set radio and fed logs to the stove. As hours dragged on, the trips to the stove became more numerous. Heavy winds were blasting outside, whining around the eaves of the cabin, rattling the windows, and shaking the door. These winds were sub-freezing.

So to keep warm as much as for weariness, we crept into bed. I fell asleep like a cat after dinner, and it was not until I heard Davey stirring in the darkness that I aroused. I heard him say, "Six o'clock. Time to build a fire." The whites of his underwear shook in the darkness. "Ai! It—is—cold!" his quaking voice complained. The lantern awakened its sleepy eye, gradually growing to a weak, fluttering yellow light. Through weighty lids, I watched Davey gather chips of pitch-pine, throwing them into the stove; and then watched him deftly working fagots of grey birch and chestnut over the top. A match rasped along the stove, burst to life . . . and in a few minutes, a fire roared heartily.

Davey stood up, clasping and unclasping his hands. The seat of his underwear trembled like an aspen leaf in a windstorm. "A few minutes more—" he said hopefully, watching the fire.

Then, abruptly, his eyes lowered to his wrist watch, lifted quickly, and dropped as quickly again. His wrist drew swiftly to his eyes. Then he mumbled something, banged shut the lid of the stove, and turned down the lantern. He crawled onto bed, and now I understood his mumbling. Cussing!

"What's wrong, Dave?" I wondered.

He cussed again. "I thought my watch said six. It's half-past twelve!"

Laughing inwardly, I turned over. And that is all I remember until morning came.

Back in the forest, a man has much—too much—opportunity to think. We human beings have the common characteristics of thinking too much about ourselves. So before Davey came, something had begun to worry me.

I thought that I heard a low, muffled, thumping noise. In the stillness of snow-draped forest, while chopping wood, or digging out the spring from its snow prison, or on the trapline, or in the loneliness of the cabin, this drumming would come. It was vague, deep, like the noise of a creek under heavy burden of ice and snow, and its identity evaded me. It was puzzling. I had not heard it before. At length, it alarmed me. It came more often. It stole out of the silence, an oppressive furtive sound that beat like a covered drum, erratic, fading, recurring. It put the crazy idea into my head that I was beginning to suffer imaginary noises.

The noise came after Davey arrived. In matter-of-fact tones, I asked, "Do you hear something?"

He cocked an ear. "Nothing," he replied. "Oh . . . nothing." I swallowed hard.

He listened more intently. "Nothing . . . but a ruffed grouse drumming. Is that what you mean?"

A ruffed grouse drumming! Of course! Those were the sounds that had bothered me! But true to human nature, I remarked, "Oh no, I didn't mean that . . ."

We had other noises that winter. Often as a blood-red sun dipped into the west, the foxes yapped like weak-voiced dogs. They seemed only to yap at the brief twilight hour. Blue jays screeched and scolded in the trees beside the cabin. Junco birds twitted and chirped as their white-specked tails flitted through the hardwoods, Occasionally, a deer snorted. And once, deep in the darkness, a wildcat wailed.

One shrill sound puzzled me. It was more like a brief, terrified shriek. I de-

scribed this sound to Davey. He puzzled with me. Then one day we heard the sound together, in the presence of another friend. He immediately identified it as a grey fox who had been alarmed. The noise lives with me today as one of the strangest yet encountered in the forest.

But more than the noise, a characteristic of the Poconos in winter was silence—silence so deep it pressed in on you. And there was little life astir. We covered a lot of ground, on trapline, patrolling the property wire in search of breaks and windfalls across the wire, thinning tree stands, and just hiking; and we observed little life. But some things are of note.

The winter was hard. January was intensely cold, and then came February, with the St. Valentine's day blizzard of 1940; and thereafter, deep snows which lasted into April. For many weeks, these snows were two feet deep. The deer of the district, however, were not clustered. Both Davey and I saw many deer, and never more than three in a group. We observed places where they had bedded, and many more places where they had been feeding. They ate such green briars as they could find, and chewed the bark of hardwoods as high as they could reach. But they did not winter as a group. And we found none dead from starvation.

We did find dead deer, however. We found ten of them—dead does, several of them not larger than a German Shepherd dog, and all shortly after December 15th. Since it was a buck season only, the reason was obvious. We were both angered at this fact, and thought that these were killed, in all probability, by those same hunters who year in and year out complain of the scarcity of game and who never step into the forest except in November and December.

We found the kill of foxes on several occasions. The victims were grouse, hares and cottontail rabbits. We found also where foxes had been feeding on a dead fawn, but believe that a careless hunter had made the kill.

The ruffed grouse seemed to prefer to winter in small swampy patches under cover of rhododendron. Snowshoe hares shared this preference. From an observation of tracks, snowshoes were common in only a few such swamp-stretches; for the most part, sight of one of these big-footed hares or sight of a track was out of the ordinary.

Davey was bothered by the mystery of what was eating our garbage. We kept it in a small can beside the cabin. One night Davey forgot to place the lid, and the following morning the garbage was gone. Thereafter, he did not secure the lid. And each morning, our nocturnal visitor had feasted on our left-overs.

Davey pondered. Finally his eyes caught sight of a small hole in one of our windows; and his face lighted with an idea.

He tied a piece of bacon skin to a string. He planted this bacon beside the garbage can. Then he drew this string through the hole in the window, and tied it around the leg of our table. His brown eyes twinkled. "We'll see!" said he.

That evening, near bed-time, a sudden scraping, and rocking of the kerosene lantern, raised us to our feet. Davey grabbed the lantern before it fell. "The string!" he cried. "Something's got our bacon!"

I scooped up rifle and flashlight and dashed outside, Davey's breath hot on my neck. I handed him the flashlight. He turned it on. The light followed the string . . . followed it to a pair of flashing green eyes. I raised my rifle.

"Don't shoot!" he cried.

And then I too saw, and started.

The string was down the throat of our dog!

Davey loves to tease me about the wise old fox whose favorite stamping ground was

*(Continued on next page)*

a wide huckleberry swamp only a few hundred yards from the cabin.

It started with an ordinary bait set for weasel. I slipped a piece of rotten fish under the roots of a chestnut stump and set a bare number one jump trap in front. The following morning, the bait was gone, the trap was unmolested. I made a reset, and the same thing happened. This prompted an examination, and I found some droppings nearby that looked to me like fox. So I made a reset, but then in addition concealed a number two trap nearby, Davey chuckled as I told him what I had done.

It sprinkled snow that night, and I was confident of a catch. The dawn found me hot on a mighty cold trail (minus ten said the thermometer), and there they were, the fox tracks, leading up to the set. It was a red fox. But he was not in the trap. He had gone up to the set, scratched about my concealed trap until the wax paper pan covering shone, then had nimbly stepped over the trap and had eaten the fish.

"Why that—" said I. And more. Then I lost my temper and concealed traps all over the place, so that Mr. Fox could *not* get that bait unless he mixed himself with a minefield of traps.

He stayed away for a night or so. Then one morning I picked up his unsteady, wandering trail again, and followed it to the set. Unfortunately for me, Davey was with me this day. He saw.

The fox had stepped warily about my concealed traps . . . had circled them . . . had gone to the rear of the chestnut stump . . . . had dug a hole from the back until he reached the bait!

I never did catch that fox.

Our cabin stood at the south end of Mosey Wood lake, with only space between the frozen waters and our door-step. Our loose windows and thin board walls took the full sweep of the wind across the lake. Behind us, not fifty yards away, was a thick evergreen stand. Had the cabin been erected in a clearing in this evergreen growth, our heating problem would have been much lessened. After a snow-storm there were tiny banks of snow under the door panel, under the stove, and after the St. Valentine's day storm, on the pillows and sheets of the bed.

The cold was the only thing that Davey did not enjoy that winter. "There are only two seasons up here!" he once observed. "Winter—and July!"

But we were both glad, I am certain, when Spring broke loose. It came with a suddenness that was amazing. I remember that first warm taste of it, on a cold March day. A roar awakened deep in the forest. It came speeding in, humming cheerily through the crowns of the evergreens. When it struck me, I was amazed. For out of the coldness of Winter, a gloriously warm breath had come, as cheering as a winter's fire, a spark that fired the sap in the blood and made muscles want to dance and play. Thereafter, cold days came, but always there were those occasional breaths from the south. Winter was dying. And then came the fullness and greenness, and dead snows pouring down the mountainsides in roily rivulets.

# TRANSACTIONS OF THE COMMISSION MEETING

*(From Page 25)*

26 miles of telephone line were maintained.

Release cuttings were made on 94 plots containing 160 acres; clear cuttings in forest areas on 25 plots containing 18 acres, and forest thinnings on 27 plots containing 63 acres.

6,000 trees and shrubs were released and pruned on 75 acres.

Seedlings planted included 106,367 evergreen, 19,778 deciduous, 12,190 shrubs, and 13,581 vines.

Other miscellaneous activities including the building of game feeders and shelters, building and repairing bridges, corn cribs, storage buildings, etc., walling up springs, and many other smaller projects too numerous to mention were carried on.

Law Inforcement Activities included:

80 bear damage claims were received and $2,194.85 paid out in claims.

To December 21, 1945 field officers accounted for nearly 65,000 predators including 2,211 foxes, 42 weasels, 642 hawks, 46 owls, 58,460 crows, 1,574 stray house cats, 935 stray dogs, 462 opossums, 307 skunks, 2 wildcats, 245 porcupines, 34 racoons, 2 minks, and 355 snakes.

Prosecutions for violation of the game laws totalled 1,393 and penalties $45,270.50. 226 hunter's licenses were revoked.

1,107 special permits were issued and $12,840 in fees collected. They included fur-dealers, propagating, taxidermy, archery, fox hunting, etc.

Training activities included:

Office training classes for stenographers and clerks in the Harrisburg and Field Division offices were conducted.

Several field training conferences were held on the subject of ringneck pheasants.

Plans for courses at the next Training School were formulated, brochures and applications prepared, and work on reconditioning the grounds and buildings at the School started.

Research activities included:

One research project entailing a Bobwhite Quail Survey was conducted.

Game Farm activities included:

Production at the Game Farms included:

*Pheasants*

| | *Loyalsock Farm* | *Jordan Farm* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Chicks Hatched | 52,730 | 38,366 | 91,096 |
| Chicks and Birds Shipped | 39,739 | 29,831 | 69,070 |
| Adult Birds on Hand | 9,793 | 4,228 | 14,021* |

*Of this number the following will be released this Spring, the remainder to be held as breeders.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Loyalsock Farm | 6,210 | Pheasants |
| Jordan Farm | 778 | " |
| Total | 6,988 | " |

*Quail—Fisher Farm*

| | |
|---|---|
| Chicks hatched | 22,936 |
| Birds to Holding Pens | 20,235 |
| Adult Birds Shipped | 7,494 |
| Adult Quail on Hand Dec. 31, 1945 | 7,780* |

*Of this number, approximately 5,700 quail will be released this Spring, the remainder to be held as breeders.

*Wild Turkeys—Turkey Farm*

| | |
|---|---|
| Chicks hatched | 3,188 |
| Birds to Holding Pens | 1,180 |
| Birds Shipped | 814 |
| Turkeys on Hand Dec. 1, 1945 | 1,394 |

*1945 ADULT BIRD STOCKING FROM GAME FARMS*

*Pheasants*

| | |
|---|---|
| Fisher Farm | 2,259 |
| Loyalsock Farm | 7,832 |
| Jordan Farm | 12,324 |
| Total | 22,415 |

*Quail*

| | |
|---|---|
| Fisher Farm | 12,365 |

*Wild Turkeys*

| | |
|---|---|
| Turkey Farm | 987 |

*GAME STOCKED IN 1945*

| | *Produced at Game Farms* | *Purchased and Released* | *Trapped and Transferred* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pheasants | 22,415 | 8,911* | 1,821 | 33,147 |
| Bobwhite Quail | 12,365 | ..... | 11 | 12,376 |
| Wild Turkeys | 987 | ..... | ..... | 987 |
| Rabbits | ..... | 10,000** | 40,078 | 50,078 |
| Squirrels | ..... | ..... | 385 | 385 |
| Raccoons | ..... | ..... | 40 | 40 |
| Woodchucks | ..... | ..... | 8 | 8 |

*Of this number, 1,441 pheasants are being held at the Fisher Farm for Spring 1946 release.

**Shipping instructions have also been issued for 4,000 more Missouri rabbits, on which we expect delivery early in January 1946.

*(Continued on page 31)*

Photo by C. Gordon Krieble.
The day-old pheasant chick program will be expanded greatly.

# Notes from the Field

*(Continued from Page 26)*

**"I ain't related, I tell you, I got this from the wife for insisting on hunting today."**

"Deer hunters were very successful in this district this past season. Many nice bucks were bagged and many with very good racks of horns. One buck, an 11-pointer, was killed about four miles from Cambridge Springs and only about 30 yards from a main road. He weighed 160 pounds hog dressed and his antlers were as thick as a man's wrist with points about 8 inches long.

"Trappers were more numerous than ever in this section and more fur-bearers were taken than usual, with mink exceptinally high on the list. One trapper took twenty minks."—Game Protector Elmer D. Simpson, Cambridge Springs, December 1945.

---

"Fox trapping is in bad shape at this time. Everything is all iced up, and there are very few springs to make water sets.

"According to the tracks in the snow, all the deer are not killed in this section. Everywhere you go you can see plenty of deer tracks. I would say we have as many deer as we did 5 years ago."—Game Protector D. H. Franklin, Upper Strasburg, December 1945.

---

"We had a very successful deer season in this district. Some very large deer were killed. Mr. Carl Lenker shot a 10-point buck that hog dressed at 200 pounds. Martin Hermerka, Danville Route 6, killed an 8-pointer which dressed 190 pounds."—Game Protector Raymond Leiby, Elysburg, December 1945.

---

"The 1945 deer season was an exceptional success in this area as far as the deer kill is concerned. A great number of those killed had exceptionally nice racks. The local taxidermist tells me that in his 22 years of business, he cannot recall having as many nice deer heads for mounting as he has had this year. All these deer were killed in Perry County.

"In Miller Township I estimated 15 legal bucks killed. All had large heads. The local scribe from that territory states that 25 legal deer were killed in Miller Township.

"Most of the deer in Perry County were killed on the ridges and I know a goodly number still remain. I fear that within two years numerous complaints for crop damages will arise."—Game Protector Joseph S. Checklinski, Newport, December 1945.

---

"The deer kill was good in this section, especially in the northern part of the district. Some bears and many bear tracks were reported."—Game Protector Paul L. Failor, Mt. Pocono, December 1945.

"More deer hunters were in the woods the first three days of the season this year than during the same period last year. I heard about a buck being killed in Tobyhanna Township, Monroe County, on the opening day with two sets of antlers, totalling 22 points. So far, I have not found out the name and address of the hunter and am of the opinion that the report was false.

"We had a light turnout of snowshoe rabbit hunters, due mainly to the hazardous condition of the roads caused by rain, sleet and snow."—Game Protector H. D. Carroll, Thornhurst, December 1945.

---

"We had an excellent deer season in Butler County this year. Sportsmen were well pleased to have a chance to hunt right at home. There was a good supply of corn-fed bucks which averaged 180 pounds, hog dressed and horns."—Game Protector R. P. Schmid, Slippery Rock, December 1945.

---

"On December 26 I received a 'phone call from Matt Foster, Narrowsburg, N. Y. to the effect that dogs were chasing deer near his place along the Delaware River. This was in Officer Woodring's district, but knowing that Mr. Woodring was working on State Game Lands 159 in Dyberry Township at the time, I investigated the complaint and found that the dogs had killed or nearly killed a large buck deer on the ice of the river about two miles above Narrowsburg. Not having a gun to kill the dogs, Mr. Foster had driven them away from the deer, which was near the New York State shore on the floating ice. It was not safe to try to cross near this point, so I notified the New York State officers and helped them locate the deer, which was then turned over to them.

"Officer Mills of the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Rodent Control, visited me on December 21 to make preparations for some porcupine control work to be conducted in Wayne County this winter. I feel that this is a worthwhile project, as porcupines are becoming very numerous throughout this section and in some places are doing considerable damage. There are several large dens of these animals on State Game Lands 159 and they are causing rather a large amount of damage to the hemlock trees in that area. During the winters of 1942 and 1943 Officer Mills and I conducted porcupine control work in Wayne County with very good results. A large number of these destructive animals were killed during the course of our program that time."—Game Protector Maynard R. Miller, Honesdale, December 1945.

---

"Due to snow which made walking very difficult, the snowshoe rabbit hunting in my district was very limited and the kill very light."—Game Protector Edward R. Richards, Portland Mills, December 1945.

---

"From all reports and observations it is believed a fair kill of deer was made throughout the District. The illegal kill was small compared with the increase of hunters over the past couple of seasons. No accidents were reported during the small and big game seasons. The conduct of the hunters was good as a whole with very few complaints received. The condition of the deer checked was excellent due to a heavy crop of acorns. Plenty of natural food in the backwoods during the entire fall season kept the deer herd out of the fields and off the highways, keeping the number accidentally killed by autos and railroad much lower than usual.

"As for the snowshoe rabbit season throughout this district, very little interest, if any, was shown by the hunters. Hunting conditions should have been ideal due to plenty of snow throughout the hunting period. During the deer season quite a few tracks were observed here and there throughout their favorite habitat."—Game Protector Howard F. Hoffman, Susquehanna, December, 1945.

---

"Game birds and animals seem to be scarce since the season ended. Food is not very plentiful.—Game Protector Herman W. Fisher, Mifflintown, December 1945.

---

"We had some big deer killed during the season which has just passed. The largest reported by actual weight was 220 pounds dressed."—Game Protector S. Earl Carpenter, Doylestown, December 1945.

"The opening day of the deer season was ideal for deer hunting. There was a light tracking snow and it wasn't too cold. Hunters were plentiful with the greatest concentration on Game Lands No. 101, or adjoining thereto. Throughout the first week hunters were plentiful in this area. The second week they showed a tendency to disperse and were found pretty well scattered over the district with no great concentration in any particular area.

"The hunters in this area have a particular method of deer hunting that is especially adapted to this type country. Numerous roads divide the area in 'squares', roughly one mile to the square. Hunters drive the roads until they see deer tracks going into the 'square' but not coming out. They then place watchers around the square and send one or two men on the track. This method usually produces good results with the watchers getting a shot at least. If the deer is missed the watchers move over to the next 'square' and the hunt proceeds as before, until the deer is either killed or the hunt is given up for the day.

"Most hunters seem well pleased at the number of deer seen as well as killed. They tell me the past season was one of the best in recent years.

"The largest deer I heard about was killed by a returned war veteran. It was an 8-pointer, and weighed 190 pounds hog dressed.

"Muskrat trappers had good weather conditions the first ten days of the season. I believe the 'take' was high. After that the streams and swamps were frozen tight, until the last week of the month, when milder weather again set in. After this trappers showed more activity, but streams were entirely too high for good trapping.

"I am well pleased at the amount of small game that seems to be present in certain areas on Game Lands No. 101. Rabbits seem plentiful. They are having a feast on the apple trimmings that have been placed for them. Every effort will be made to keep plenty of food out for them, and to give them ample protection from predators. Incidentally, I have seen more rabbits killed on the highway in the past few weeks than I had during the Fall.

"While the past deer season was a good one from the standpoint of game killed, next year should be just as good or better. One qualified observer saw seventeen in one herd. I saw eleven in another. There appears to be plenty of browse in the woods, and there are many fields containing standing buckwheat that farmers were unable to harvest last fall. This would indicate that our deer should come through the winter in excellent shape."—Game Protector Clair W. Dinger, Albion, December, 1945.

---

Members of the Western Pennsylvania Sportsmen's Club, 7636 Tioga Street, Pittsburgh have expressed the desire to make donations to brother clubs in the north and central parts of the state to help the game feeding program. Since the members of this club hunt in the northern and central counties, they feel that financial contributions to the clubs in the district in which they hunt.

"In spite of all the gripes and grumblings about the scarcity of game, I believe that the hunters in

*(Continued on next page)*

**"My wife shot all these . . . I killed the rabbit."**

this section of the state enjoyed a pretty fair season. Ringneck pheasants were apparently very scarce. Squirrels, however, were better than they have been for the past few years and that made up for the scarcity of ringnecks. Rabbits were about normal, and in spite of all the publicity and complaints on the scarcity of grouse I believe there were more grouse this year than there have been in the past two years. Mr. Slautterback, Mr. Sedam, Mr. Grimm and I spent about two and one half hours one morning hunting grouse on State Game Lands 51 and in that time we flushed 30 grouse. I later went back in the same vicinity on two different occasions and in a couple of hours flushed 12 and 15 grouse. I also found in checking hunters on the Game Poll that the grouse hunters were killing a lot of birds. One thing I noticed was that the grouse were spotty. Where you found them in past seasons, you would not flush a grouse this season, but when you could find where they were feeding, you could always find some shooting.

"The deer kill was normal, with plenty of deer left over for next season. The first few days showed a record number of hunters in the woods, but as the season progressed the hunting activities decreased. The last week the weather was very unfavorable with lots of ice on the trees and a very dense fog. In checking the bucks that were killed, I noticed there were very few that did not have one or more points damaged."—Game Protector Lester E. Shaffer, Uniontown, December 1945.

---

"This year the hunters of Indiana County enjoyed the best big game hunting they have had for a number of years. About 200 deer were killed, all large and in good condition with beautiful racks. Two of the largest deer probably ever killed in Indiana County were shot this season. One was a 26-pointer weighing 200 pounds dressed which was bagged by Bill Stephens of Indiana. The other was a 25-pointer killed by Walter Blakley of Indiana. Several other nice large deer having from 12 to 18 points were bagged."—Game Protector Bruce W. Catherman, Indiana, December 1945.

# With the Clubs

*(From page 23)*

The Kiski Township Sportmen's Association made some good New Years resolutions. Here they are.: "Every sportsman kill a fox. Every member get a member. Send material to the BULL, the news sheet published by the Armstrong County Sportsmen's League." They tell of definite plans of the Sanitary Water Board regarding the Black Clarion River, and how it is expected that this beautiful stream will again bear fish-life.

---

As their contribution to the state-wide "Hunt Safely Week" campaign, the Blawnox Sportsmen's Club posted signs in Butler, Venango, Armstrong, Forest and Potter counties, in the Blawnox and Mt. Rose schools and on the bulletin boards of the Blawnox Steel and American Bridge companies. They also gave posters to each different sportsmen's club of the Allegheny County Sportsmen's League.

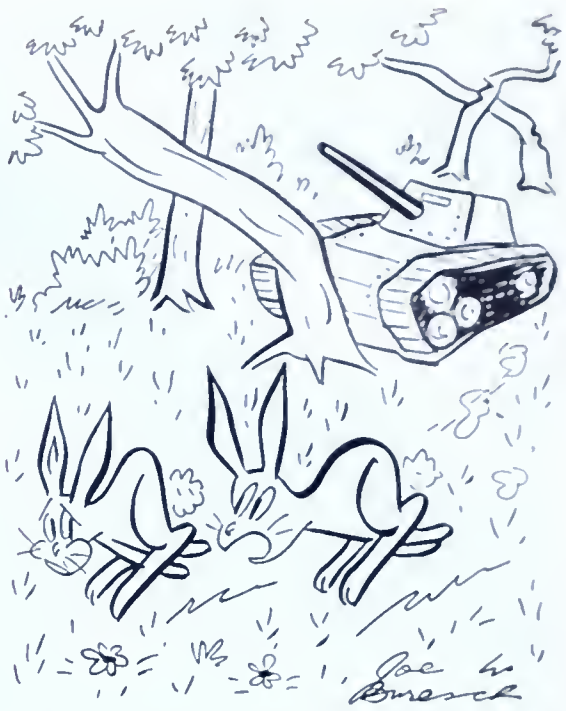
---

The Lehigh County Fish and Game Protective Association has already collected $1,045.80 toward a living memorial to be dedicated to the four servicemen of the association who gave their lives in the war.

In cooperation with the club, 26 landowners opened more than 2,500 acres of farm land to hunting. The association, in turn, contributed a dozen signs free of charge to each of the landowners. These signs, printed in red, were posted around all farm buildings reminding hunters that it is unlawful to discharge firearms within 150 yards of the house and barn.

---

For Hunt Safely Week last October the Hillside Rod and Gun Club, Inc., distributed placards and literature to gas service stations, grocery stores and other places of business. This distribution was made following a special safety meeting which was advertised by news items in local papers and which was attended by a large number of sportsmen.



"Whew . . . you don't suppose the government will include those things as surplus property, and sell 'em off, do you?"

# Transactions of the Commission Meeting

*(Continued from page 29)*

There are also under contract with private breeders, for Spring 1946 delivery, 4,530 pheasants and 4,000 bobwhite quail.

*Day-Old Chick Program*

Mr. Ralph Britt visited 64 Farm-Game Cooperators and others who received chicks. Final reports are not all received, but it is thought that over 50% of the 46,000 chicks furnished were raised to suitable age for release.

*New Bulletins and Instructions*

The Bulletin on "Artificial Rearing of Ringneck Pheasants" was completely rewritten and is ready for distribution. Regulations and instructions for obtaining and handling day-old chicks by Farm-Game Cooperators and Sportsmen's Organizations have been fully revised for 1946.

Public Relations activities included:

1. The Division Chief, Mr. Thompson and others from the Division, the part-time lecturers and those showing moving pictures attended 507 meetings, reaching approximately 341,000 persons.

2. The subscription list to the GAME NEWS was increased by 4,095 paid subscribers with a total paid list of 30,062 on December 31, 1945.

3. 4,162 paid copies of Bulletins 15, 17, 18, 19 and "My Land and Your Land" were sold.

4. A motion picture on the Farm-Game Program planned around a Soil Conservation District was taken and is being edited for sound narration. A 35 mm. slide lecture was prepared for the use of the part-time lectures. Ten (10) slide projectors were ordered for the use of the lecture staff.

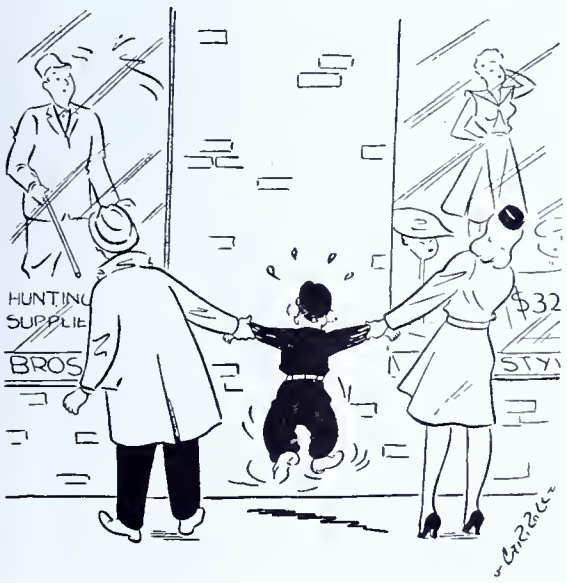
5. An extensive "Hunt Safely" campaign was carried on during "Hunt Safely Week" in which 100,000 colored safety posters were distributed and motion pictures on safe shooting were shown.

6. Bulletins on the deer problem in Pennsylvania and on wildlife conservation were prepared and distributed; 200,000 copies of a leaflet "Don't Waste Your Deer" and 3,500 flyers on hunting regulations were prepared and distributed.

7. 7,500 copies of the Biennial Report were printed and distributed.

8. The Chief of the Division maintained a constant liaison between the Commission, the Department of Public Instruction and other agencies contributing to the ultimate formation of a definite program of conservation education to become operative at State College next year.

9. An educational exhibit was erected as part of a Joint State Department display held in the main Capitol building November 13-17.




# Selecting a Pup

*(From page 15)*

near you. Do not underestimate sentiment because it comprises more than fifty per cent of the sport of hunting. Take a dog you love deeply and a great part of your training problems are solved. If he is certain of your affection he will exert himself in his efforts to please you and you will have more than a field performer, you will possess a rare hunting companion. Volumes have been beautifully written about the love of a man for his dog and the love of a dog for his master. Therefore, do not overlook the quality of affection.

Use your own judgment as to the selection of sex. Here again one man desires a male and others feel that the female is easier to train, possesses a keener nose, and develops into a smarter and more biddable performer. Just remember that if you select a bitch she may be in season during the open hunting season and although many females have been successfully spayed, it is not a completely satisfactory procedure, as it is in direct interference with the natural function of the dog's organs. Spaying may make the bitch dull and listless therefore, destroying her desire to hunt.

No matter what color combination you select be sure your puppy can be easily seen in cover. This effect can be achieved if the greater part of his body is white. This does not mean that spots and body markings are undesirable, for distinctive markings, smooth and even, make a dog a thing of beauty.

Try to select a puppy of medium size, one which promises to develop enough bone and muscle to penetrate heavy cover without discomfort and at the same time be small enough to handle himself gracefully and easily.

Select a puppy with all these qualifications, and in him you will have found a youngster which will respond to training, and will develop into a pleasant gunning companion.

# THE COMSTOCK LION

(From Page 10)

get down. One hound ran close to the edge, tried too late to correct his mistake, and plunged over the bluff when the gravel slid under his frantic feet. We heard him thud below, faintly, three hundred feet down.

"One man had brought a black and tan Shepherd stock dog. Some way this dog made the descent and in twenty minutes was with the hounds. He took the lead, and brother, he ran to catch. His shrill yelps sounded above the roar of the driving hounds as he burned the night like a greyhound. 'Gone hog wild,' father remarked.

"Thirty minutes later the other hounds were in the race. The chase went across the canyon, up the far side of the face of the rimrock, turned and angled back across to our side and on down toward the river. The hysterical Shepherd was two hundred yards in the lead of the pounding hounds, when the trail rounded a contour below and out of hearing.

"We mounted our horses and rode around the head of some short lateral box canyons and turned back to the rimrock two miles below toward the river. Somewhere in a slide below us the lion was at bay.

"We tied the horses to some Wahea brush, carried our rifles and worked our way down to the foot of the slide against the rimrock, a heap of boulders some of which were as large as small houses. They lay in such a manner as to form a zig-zag, tunnel-like aperture in which the hounds were baying.

"One man yelled at the hounds and father cursed him roundly as a dog screamed.

"'Do you want our dogs all killed?' Dad demanded. 'Some dog took hold of that cat at the sound of your voice and is probably dead.'

"We held a caucus to decide how to proceed. The tunnel-like aperture was about five feet wide, and three high. One man crawled in the center, holding a lantern, with one man on each side of him holding rifles ready. Fifteen or twenty feet back the tunnel made a left turn. At the end of this shaft, about twenty feet back, the lion crouched at bay. In front of the cat lay a dead hound. The tunnel was full of excited dogs, barking within five feet of the lion.

"The riflemen, trying to get a bead on the lion over the melee of dogs, could see the eyes of a hound barking at the lion through a ten-inch opening in the boulders directly back of the cat. The shot would be risky for the dog, and one man crawled back in the tunnel to shout this information. Outside, we crawled over and among the boulders as directed, got this hound by the tail and dragged him out of his crevice.

"In the eerie clamor-filled cavern the lantern was lifted to chin height and the crouching riflemen pulled the trigger.

"With the gunshot the light went out, perhaps from the concussion.

"In inky darkness the men in the tunnel heard the pandemonium of slavering hounds closing with the cat. Outside, the other hound jerked the leash from the man holding him and plunged into the opening, clawing his way over the petrified men getting to the fray. The three bolted with conviction that the great cat was on them fang and claw. In the cavern they tangled up, banged and battled each other and came

streaking out on lacerated knees with banged elbows and bumped heads. The two that could still run took off like coursing greyhounds. We flagged them down and heard a story of hand to hand conflict with the man eater after he had killed all the dogs.

"The narrative was regretfully amended and corrected with the explanation of the captive dog's cyclonic entrance.

"Father got another lantern going and we crawled in where the hounds were worrying the carcass, dragged the lion and dead dog out into the open. The dead dog was a bull-terrier hound cross belonging to the man who yelled at the dogs. The bulldog blood had been introduced to make a kill dog. It did.

"We skinned the lion by a fire of sotto stalks.

"The jealous shepherd dog tried to drive the hounds off the lion carcass, attacked one, and was almost eaten up before we could pull the entire pack off him.

"It was daylight when the lion was skinned.

"Two of the men carried the hide with them to Comstock. They took it to the section house and showed it to the mother of the child. They told her the tot was avenged. The woman crossed herself, called down upon the hide the full roster of Spanish invective, spat on it and told them to take it away."

And so we see how our remarkable American hounds can be bred to account for a wide variety of game.

NEWBOLD ELY.

## THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

The Gila monster, only poisonous lizard found in the United States, is especially fond of eggs.

The solenodon of Haiti is a rat-like animal with an elongated nose like an anteater.

## TRAINING SCHOOL TO REOPEN

*(From page 7)*

Married Man, living with his spouse, with two or more dependent children under eighteen (18) years of age—$120.00 per month.

In addition, students will receive maintenance and subsistence (estimated at $37.50 per month) during the time they are receiving specialized training at the school; and necessary traveling expenses during the time they are engaged in field work.

Examinations will be conducted either late in April or early May at a time and place in Harrisburg to be announced later. Complete literature regarding the school, examination and courses offered can be secured by writing to the Superintendent of Training, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pa. Applications in proper form must be mailed not later than midnight April 1, 1946. Applicants whose names are already in the files of the Commission will receive this information without making another request for it. These 25 men will be "the cream of the crop," and when they take their places in the front lines of wildlife conservation will again prove the worth of having trained men for these important positions.

**The Chambersburg Airport, (Mrs. Beard, center, manager) dropped 10 lb. bags of shelled corn over the mountains of Franklin County last year as its contributions to the winter feeding program of the local Rod and Gun Club. F. W. Fisher of the Chimney Stack Club, Paradise, displaying native chestnuts on Red Rock Mountain, near Benton, Pa. We don't know who the lucky trapper is opposite but we wish him continued success. Young George Dayhart, 201 Fayetteville, about to release two cages of pheasants raised by the South Mountain Fish and Game Protective Association. The Club, comprising over 200 members in the southern Franklin-Adams County district, received 100 day-old pheasant chicks from the Commission and raised 83 of them. Lucky trappers at bottom left include Louis Veronca, Fritz Gudoski, Ted Lincoln of Wilkes-Barre, all members of Camp 205 of the United Sportsmen of Pennsylvania. Club secretary, Pete Kostka, sent in the photos. Young Thomas Ramage, Dillstown, with his 1944 catch. Other young 'uns should rightfully envy the lad's ability. Orphaned fawn "Bamby" on farm of Ed. McElwee near Turtle Point, Pa. The photo was sent in by Mrs. Arthur E. Murphy whose husband is shown at left in the picture.**

# Pictorial

# NOTICE

## TO READERS

As of July 1, 1946, the subscription fee for Game News will be $1.00 for one year, $1.50 for two years and $2.00 for three years, for everyone, residents and non-residents, with a special group rate of $.50 for all sportsmen's organizations that wish to include the magazine as a part of their membership fees, provided such subscriptions are submitted in lots of ten or more.

The purpose of the increased fee is to enable the Commission to provide better paper, better text, and better illustrations and more adequately sustain the magazine financially. You as a reader will benefit tremendously as a result, and we hope you will cooperate.

# PENNSYLVANIA Game News

Pennsylvania State Library
DOCUMENTS SECTION

March 1946

Ten Cents

P38.34
1.6
16/12

# PENNSYLVANIA GAME NEWS

## The PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION, HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA


COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

EDWARD MARTIN, GOVERNOR

★

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

Ross L. Leffler, *President* .....Pittsburgh
Robert Lamberton, *Vice-President* .....Franklin
Col. Nicholas Biddle .....Bethayres
G. I. Phillips .....Alexandria
Harold Moltz .....Williamsport
Dr. H. E. Kilgus .....Brockway
John C. Herman .....Dauphin
B. K. Williams .....East Stroudsburg

Administrative Office

Seth Gordon .....*Executive Director*
R. A. McCachran .....*Assistant Director*

Division of Lands

W. Gard. Conklin .....*Chief*

Division of Accounting & Budget

N. E. Slaybaugh .....*Comptroller*

Division of Public Information

Leo A. Luttringer, Jr. .....*Chief*
*Editor*, Pennsylvania Game News

Training

W. M. Cramer .....*Supt. Training School*

Bureau of Field Operations

Division of Law Enforcement

W. C. Shaffer .....*Chief*

Division of Land Management

James N. Morton .....*Chief*

Division of Research

(Vacancy)

Propagation & Distribution

Earl S. Greenwood .....*Acting*

Field Division Supervisors

Division "A"—M. J. Golden, 602 Penn Ave., West Reading, Pa.,
Berks, Bucks, Chester, Dauphin, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, York.

Division "B"—Jay C. Gilford, Wyoming Ave. and Welles St., Forty Fort, Pa.
Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming.

Division "C"—Thomas F. Bell, 352 E. 3rd St., Williamsport, Pa.
Bradford, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga, Union.

Division "D"—William J. Davis, 327 Penn St., Huntingdon, Pa.
Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry.

Division "E"—M. E. Sherman, 1 E. Du Bois Ave., Du Bois, Pa.
Cameron, Center, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, Potter

Division "F"—Hayes T. Englert, 14 W. 1st St., 2d Floor, S. S. Oil City, Pa.
Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, Warren.

Division "G"—John J. Slautterback (Acting), 405 Main St., 2d Floor, McClellan Bldg., Irwin, Pa.
Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, Westmoreland.


## HOW TO SUBSCRIBE

RATES—$0.50 per year to residents of Pennsylvania, regardless of address. $1.00 per year for Non-Residents of Pennsylvania. (Out-of-State, District of Columbia Canadian or Foreign.) Club rates are available to organizations presenting 10 or more subscriptions in a single order. Remittances by check or money order to be made payable to the Department of Revenue, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. CASH FORWARDED AT SENDER'S RISK. STAMPS NOT ACCEPTED. Your local Game Protector, County Treasurer or other Hunting License Issuing Agent will take your subscription; or you may forward it direct to the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.

Please report all changes of address promptly, sending both your old and new addresses.

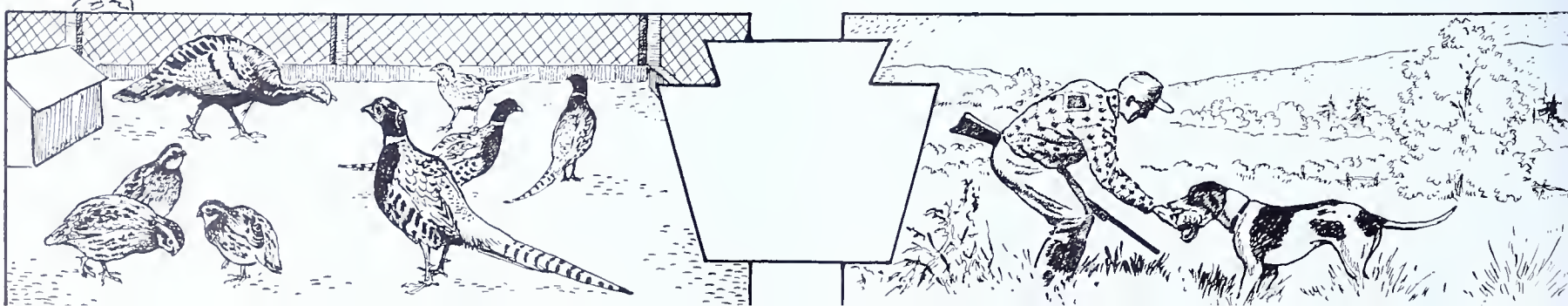
Please address all communications to the Editorial Office.

Publication office, Cameron and Kelker Sts., Harrisburg, Pa.
Executive and editorial office, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.
Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, under Act of March 3, 1879.

Permission to reprint will be granted provided proper credit is given.

Mailed in conformity with P.O.D. Order No. 19687.

Effective July 1, 1946, the subscription fee will be increased to $1.00 for one year, $1.50 for two years, and $2.00 for three years for everyone, residents and non-residents, with a special rate of 50 cents for sportsmen's organizations that desire to include subscriptions as a part of their annual dues, provided such subscriptions are submitted in lots of ten or more.



VOL. XVI, NO. 12

# EDITORIAL

March, 1946

## IN THIS ISSUE

**The Forester's Stake in Game Management**
By Seth Gordon

★

**Brant Days**
By Samuel Scoville, Jr.

★

**Let's Get Back to the Horse and Buggy Days**
By Fred Fisher

★

**Fifteenth Annual Meeting Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs**

★

**Moles**
By Caroline A. Heppenstall

★

**Dry Snapping**
By Ted Trueblood

★

**The Superlative Shooting Dog**
By Herbert Kendrick

★

**News from the Clubs**

★

**Field Notes**

★

**Commission Activities**

★

**Cover by Jacob Bates Abbott**



## Conservation Laboratory A Reality

The Conservation Laboratory, or Summer School, will be conducted on a credit basis at State College this summer at a time to be announced later. In all probability it will consist of two three-week periods. Detailed information concerning the school, the subjects to be emphasized, the rates, etc., will be made available very shortly.

The Laboratory will be conducted at the Pennsylvania State College in cooperation with several departments of the State Government, including the Department of Public Instruction, Department of Forests and Waters, the Department of Agriculture, State Planning Board, Game Commission, Fish Commission, Department of Mines, and other agencies concerned with the whole field of conservation. Numerous other organizations have participated in the launching of the "Conservation Laboratory for Teachers" and they have made substantial contributions to assure the success of the project.

Among these organizations are the Pennsylvania Federation of Women's Clubs, Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Izaak Walton League, Conservation Council of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Roadside Council, Pennsylvania Conservation Committee, Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania, and Friends of the Land. The United States Soil Conservation Service and the United States Forestry Service have given consultative services.

The Laboratory will provide actual experience in all varieties of situations that have to do with the conservation and the application of conservation principles. It will be conducted mostly out of doors with frequent trips by automobile and bus to forests, streams, mines and other points of interest that illustrate the application of conservation programs.

Individual sportsmen's organizations could make no finer contribution to the cause of conservation than to subscribe to a scholarship for some worthy teacher. It would cost only about $50, and the money would be very well spent. Any contributions no matter how large or small would help finance the initial undertaking. Donations should be submitted by check or money order made payable to Leo A. Luttringer, Jr., Treasurer of the Executive Committee of the Advisory Group sponsoring the Conservation Laboratory for Teachers, whose address is 1203 N. 16th St., Harrisburg, Pa.

Conservation programs of the State and the Nation are important because they form the very foundation upon which our livelihood is based. If we want our children of the future to avoid the mistakes that our forefathers made, and that we are making even now in many instances by unwise utilization of our natural resources, we should welcome this golden opportunity to guide them in the right channels.

☆ ☆ ☆

## Substitute Firearms Bill Equally Bad

Last month we urged you to help kill Senate Bill No. 1678 requiring the registration of all firearms more than 25 caliber with the F.B.I. Since then this undesirable piece of legislation has been withdrawn. But another Bill, Senate Bill No. 1755 was substituted for it and it is just as bad—in fact it provides for essentially the same registration.

The excuse, if you can call it such, is based on the foolish psychology that a disarmed public is a protected public.

Few people in this country have ever abused their inherent right to own a firearm except the known criminal and no law on earth is going to stop him from acquiring somehow or using such a lethal weapon when necessary.

So why make it tough for millions of honest citizens to keep their guns for protection, and for sport without going through a lot of red tape?

Senate Bill No. 1755, like its predecessor, is just another threat to our freedom. Write your Senators and Representatives at once asking them to kill it.

**Now is the time to plant game food plots, either on your club grounds or on some piece of land offered by a friendly landowner. Don't overlook such a good bet. You can't lose.**

Den trees for raccoons, opossums, squirrels and other cavity nesters should never be cut where it is possible to carry on suitable forestry and game management practices by letting them stand.

Photo Courtesy Pa. Fish Commission.

**Streams, the banks of which are thickly covered with trees and shrubs, have lower summer water temperatures, provide much food for fish, and help maintain a constant flow of water during the hot months.**

# THE FORESTER'S STAKE IN GAME MANAGEMENT

## By Seth Gordon*

IT is an honor, indeed, to have this opportunity to discuss mutual problems with such a fine group of fellow conservation workers. Your interest in game management is especially pleasing. Fortunately, for the purpose of this discussion, the forest conditions in most of the six States† covered by the Allegheny Section of your Society have a rather uniform over-all pattern. This also is true of the forest wildlife management needs.

There was a time when most foresters and their subordinates were inclined to question whether wildlife represented an administrative liability or an economic asset. Unless they were avid hunters, many of them looked upon most species of wild creatures as a nuisance, and hunters something to be shunned rather than encouraged. When it came to aiding aggressively in the enforcement of the laws enacted for the protection of game, fur-bearers, and fishes, foresters and their employes were prone to "look the other way" lest their interest in such matters would bring revenge in the form of more forest fires to be battled. This hesitancy is now much less obvious.

Incidentally, we of the Pennsylvania Game Commission are convinced, on the basis of experience with extensive game land holdings, that the punishment of game and fish law violators, without fear or favor, does not cause the setting of fires as a matter of revenge.

I am pleased to take this opportunity to say that the concerted campaign to stop the ravages of forest fires has been very successful, and the thinking public has now become pretty thoroughly sold on the necessity for preventing such conflagrations. I congratulate all of you who have taken an active part in this accomplishment.

Forest workers throughout the Nation have undergone an encouraging change of attitude toward wildlife and its management during the past decade. Forest officials generally are taking a more active interest in the maintenance of abundant game crops, and every year more and more foresters are joining with game management workers to find answers to numerous wildlife management problems. If this cooperative endeavor expands, as I am sure it will, the old criticism that most of you are "saw-log foresters only" will rapidly disappear.

*Forests Must Be Multiple-Use Units*

This evidence of close future teamwork has come about largely through better understanding of mutual problems, and a widespread realization that the greatest benefit to humanity will be assured only if our forests are managed as multiple-use units. We all agree that in addition to furnishing timber and other wood products, they must protect the Nation's watersheds, maintain good fishing waters to lure the anglers to their banks, furnish year-long homes for forest-loving species of wildlife to accommodate a growing army of hunters and trappers, and provide hiking trails and other facilities for thousands of others who desire to enjoy the great outdoors.

Recognition by foresters that wildlife is an important integral part of every properly managed forest, which must be dealt with

(Turn Page)

† New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia & West Virginia.

* Executive Director, Pennsylvania Game Commission. Address to the Allegheny Section of the Society of American Foresters, Harrisburg, Pa., Feb. 15, 1946.

Solid stands of big timber will not produce large deer like those shown above because they shade out the ground growth which provides the necessary food for deer, bears and small forest game. Unless thinnings are made or portions of the timber is cut for lumber deer will soon exhaust their natural food supply in such areas and move to more desirable locations, even to adjacent farm lands.

in future management plans, is a great step forward. Wild creatures deserve consideration, whether they be considered good or bad, economically valuable or of interest only in an esthetic way. Wildlife administrators are, of course, most immediately concerned with those species classed as game or fur-bearers, and game fishes. Their economic value is far greater than has generally been recognized. To satisfy yourselves on this point, ask the merchant, the inn or restaurant keeper, the nearby farm family where hunters are regularly accommodated, or the banker in any forest region where good hunting and fishing are found.

The wooded areas of all the States represented by the Allegheny Section, by their very location and composition, naturally must be multiple-use forests. They are ideally suited for the production of timber and other public benefits above enumerated. Being close to large centers of population, they are of immediate economic value to many thousands who seldom if ever spend leisure hours in the forests.

There are many who hold that in the eastern half of the United States our forest lands, especially those in public ownership, are now, and always will be, far more valuable from the standpoint of human use and enjoyment than they are for the production of timber crops. Even though this may not be entirely correct, the wideawake forester must of necessity also be a "recreational engineer."

*Educational Institutions Recognize Need*

The various colleges and universities which are training young men for the forestry profession are fully cognizant of this popular demand. Their courses of study are being expanded to include basic training in wildlife management and other recreational phases of their future work. This enables young men to secure a broader training, which should equip them to handle their multiple responsibilities more wisely.

The forester must not only be capable of planning his operations in anticipation of a much greater future public use of the forests, but also how best to safeguard those features which attract our people to them. One of the most important of these is an abundance of wildlife. As we develop more of the know-how to cope with these demands, I am sure we shall all be able to do a job much more satisfactory to the public whom we serve.

*Some Game Commission Experiences*

Before further discussing some of the problems which confront the local forester, I beg your indulgence to review briefly some of our own Department's activities bearing directly upon forest wildlife programs.

As most of you probably know, the Pennsylvania Game Commission began making use of the State forests in its wildlife restoration activities as early as 1905, forty years ago, when our first game refuge was established in Clinton County. As the plan developed additional refuges were created on State Forests, and by the latter part of 1915 there were ten of them, totalling something over 21,000 acres. All of the surrounding lands were open to public hunting. We never utilized enormous areas for refuges as did many of our sister States in the West, but proceeded on the theory that we needed comparatively small units as hunting pressure retreats for deer, bears and other game. Conditions in those early days were such that it was not essential to establish refuges primarily for small game, such as wild turkeys, ruffed grouse, etc.

By 1915 the refuge idea had caught the popular fancy, and the Commission and sportsmen sought ways to extend the benefits of the refuge and public hunting grounds system into regions where there were no public lands. It was decided to lease suitable areas, and several tracts of forest land

Open areas in the forest created by thinning operations and planted to game food plots serve to hold wildlife in those areas, especially deer, which would otherwise leave the forests for adjacent farmlands in search of food.

**Big timber furnishes admirable homes for squirrels, raccoons and other den creatures and provides roosting places for wild turkeys where they occur. But it also prevents the succulent plants and shrubs, so necessary as food and cover for deer, grouse, snowshoe rabbits, and other forest wildlife, from growing.**

were leased during the ensuing years, for the use of which we paid the taxes levied thereon. The fallacy of that approach soon became apparent. The taxes amounted to a tidy sum each year, and in some instances there was a tendency to raise them because the State was paying the bill. The greatest drawback, however, was the absence of a guarantee that the owners would continue the lease after it expired; the possibility existed that by the time a good game population was developed the land might be closed to the public.

*State Game Lands Were Bought*

A demand then developed for the Game Commission to purchase its own lands with monies provided by sportsmen, and to distribute these holdings as widely as possible throughout the Commonwealth, especially in sections where there were no State Forests. Sportsmen supported the program, and the Legislature in 1919 authorizing the Commission to purchase suitable lands.

During the intervening twenty-five years the Pennsylvania Game Commission has acquired a total of 818,782 acres of State Game Lands, most of which are in forest territory comparable to that being managed by the Commonwealth as State Forests. These lands cost the sportsmen of Pennsylvania slightly over $3,000,000, an average of $3.73 per acre. The acquisition costs, such as securing options, title abstracting, boundary line surveys, etc., have amounted to approximately $800,000, or a grand total of almost $4,000,000.

State Game Lands are now located in sixty-three of the sixty-seven counties of Pennsylvania. This in itself is evidence of the fact that the Commission has always kept in mind the desire of sportsmen for a wide distribution of the system of refuges and public hunting grounds.

Those of us who participated in this vast undertaking are proud of its accomplishment, especially since the entire sum was paid by the hunters and not one penny of it came from general State revenues.

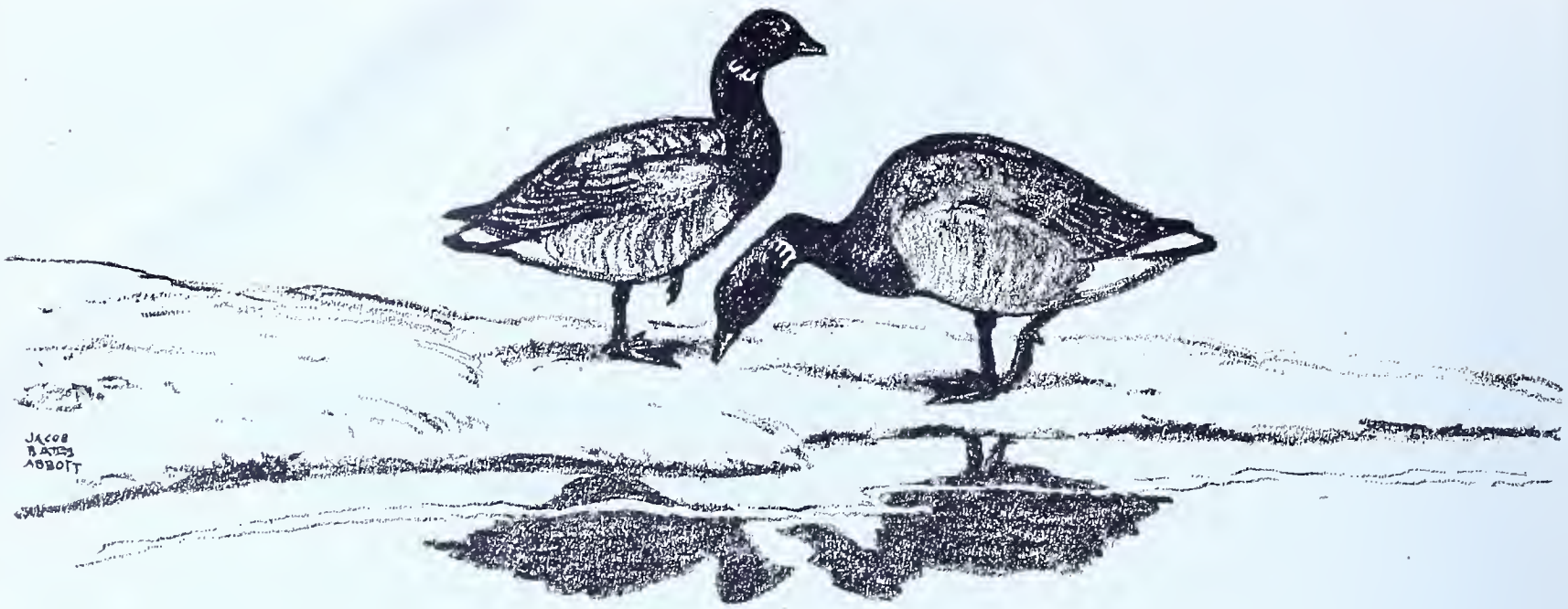
*Now Managing Over 1,000,000 Acres*

I do not wish to bore you with further statistics, but you should know that in addition to the lands purchased we also are responsible for managing several other classifications of game land areas. At this time 51,526 acres of Pennsylvania's State Forests are set aside as game refuges. We are also leasing hunting rights for privately-owned land which are classified according to their respective purposes in three different types of game projects. There are Auxiliary Refuge Projects (General Classification) which total 36,034 acres; Cooperative Farm-Game Projects, set up in good agricultural territory in an attempt to bring the benefits of the refuge and public hunting grounds system near large centers of population, which comprise 162,575 acres; Game Propagation Areas, with no public hunting grounds around them, 25,102 acres. In addition, we have a few Dog Training Preserves, Archery Preserves, and State Game Farms. The aggregate acreage owned by the Commission or under its nominal control for wildlife purposes is 1,100,080 acres, comprising 476 separate management units. While we maintain almost 1,100 separate refuge areas, more than four acres are open to public hunting for every acre closed.

The acquisition of Pennsylvania's State Game Lands has not always been without criticism. While sportsmen are entirely satisfied with their land holdings, suggestions have occasionally been made that all Commonwealth-owned lands should be under the control and management of one agency so as to assure uniformity in public advantages and administration. This proposal may originate with persons who would like to establish permanent camps on State Game Lands, something which has never been allowed and is contrary to law. Or it may come from those who feel that the Commission's policy of closing to public travel prac-

*(Continued on Page 22)*

Where suitable portions of heavily forested areas are properly thinned out and the brush piles left on the ground succulent undergrowth quickly springs up and forest game is held in the areas because of the food and cover it provides. The brush piles serve as hiding and nesting places.




# BRANT DAYS

## By Samuel Scoville, Jr.

*Illustrated by*

**JACOB BATES ABBOTT**

**We take pleasure this month in introducing a new but by no means unknown author. Mr. Scoville is a naturalist-writer of the highest calibre and his works have appeared in many of the outstanding sport and nature periodicals of the country. We hope to have more from his able pen.**

SEA and sky were molten silver with a flare of sullen flame as Ned and I reached the old sea town of Tuckerton on a January afternoon on our way to Barrel Island, where we planned to stay for a couple of days' duck-shooting. Uncle Noah and Uncle Billy, our gunners, were at the wharf waiting for us.

Uncle Noah is about four feet high, with a face like a wrinkled, rosy apple and although past 70 can scull a garvey through a northeast gale, sit all day in a lashing, freezing rain in a battery and drop a speeding duck out of the sky at an incredible distance.

Piling out of the car we helped the uncles load our duffel into a power boat, already half filled with decoys, and a minute later departed chuggingly on our way to the island.

The salt meadows bordering the winding channel were tawny as a lion and the dark cedars showed like green tourmalines against a turquoise sky, while the iva and the groundsel, with their fluffy seed-pods, seemed covered with snowy white blossoms.

As we headed into the open bay we met groups of old-squaws, "south-southerlys" Uncle Noah called them, after their call, and once a white-winged scoter, which he knew as a coot, flew past. Far ahead showed on the bay a few brant, those small geese with black breasts and heads. Then, as if our eyes were suddenly opened, we saw them by the thousand in vast rafts of birds which covered the water.

The sun was setting in a whirl of smoky crimson as we reached Barrel Island, where Ned owns two cabins hidden among the bayberry bushes. When the uncles went to the one they used, it appeared that some despicable thief had broken in and stolen Uncle Noah's bed, stuffed with selected brant and duck feathers. The old man was mightily wroth.

"A man what'll steal a feather bed will sartain go to hell," he said convincedly, and we agreed with him.

While the gunners were storing away our duffel and getting supper ready, I took a walk across the island in the twilight. The dusk spread like a slow stain through the bushes and one by one the stars showed in the black-violet sky, while Egg Harbor Light blinked across the bay and the purring notes of the brant, who always roll their r's, came faintly to me from the channel. There was a primrose afterglow in the western sky above a band of faint lilac, while the steel blue water of the bay seemed banded wit strips of molten copper.

**We met groups of old-squaws, "south-southerlys" Uncle Noah called them . . . .**

Suddenly in the bushes I saw a larg ash-gray bird with black, white-barre wings and a long tail, and there before m delighted eyes was a mocking bird. Wha that bird of the South was doing on a ice-bound northern island in January wi always remain a mystery.

Following a dim path through the bushe I came to a tiny salt-water pond ringe around with pale-yellow marsh grass, lik a moonstone set in gold. There I lay dow upon a rick of fragrant marsh grass whil the light in the western sky overlaid th old-silver of the water with a stain c crimson-lake. Then, as the dark came dow from high overhead sounded the faint beat c wings as a flock of blue-bills passed by o their way to their sleeping grounds out i the open bay.

Suddenly the air just over my hea throbbed and hummed with the sounds c wings and was full of sonorous, honkin calls, yet, stare as I would, I could not se in the faint star-shine a single one of th flock of Canada geese which were so clos to me.

After they had gone I became conscio of a great void amidships and hurried bac to the cabin, arriving there just as Uncl Billy brought in a stack of flapjacks cov ered with sweet melted butter, white-clove honey and powdered cinnamon. I am no certain just what the legal bag-limit is fo flapjacks in January but whatever it is Ne and I equalled it.

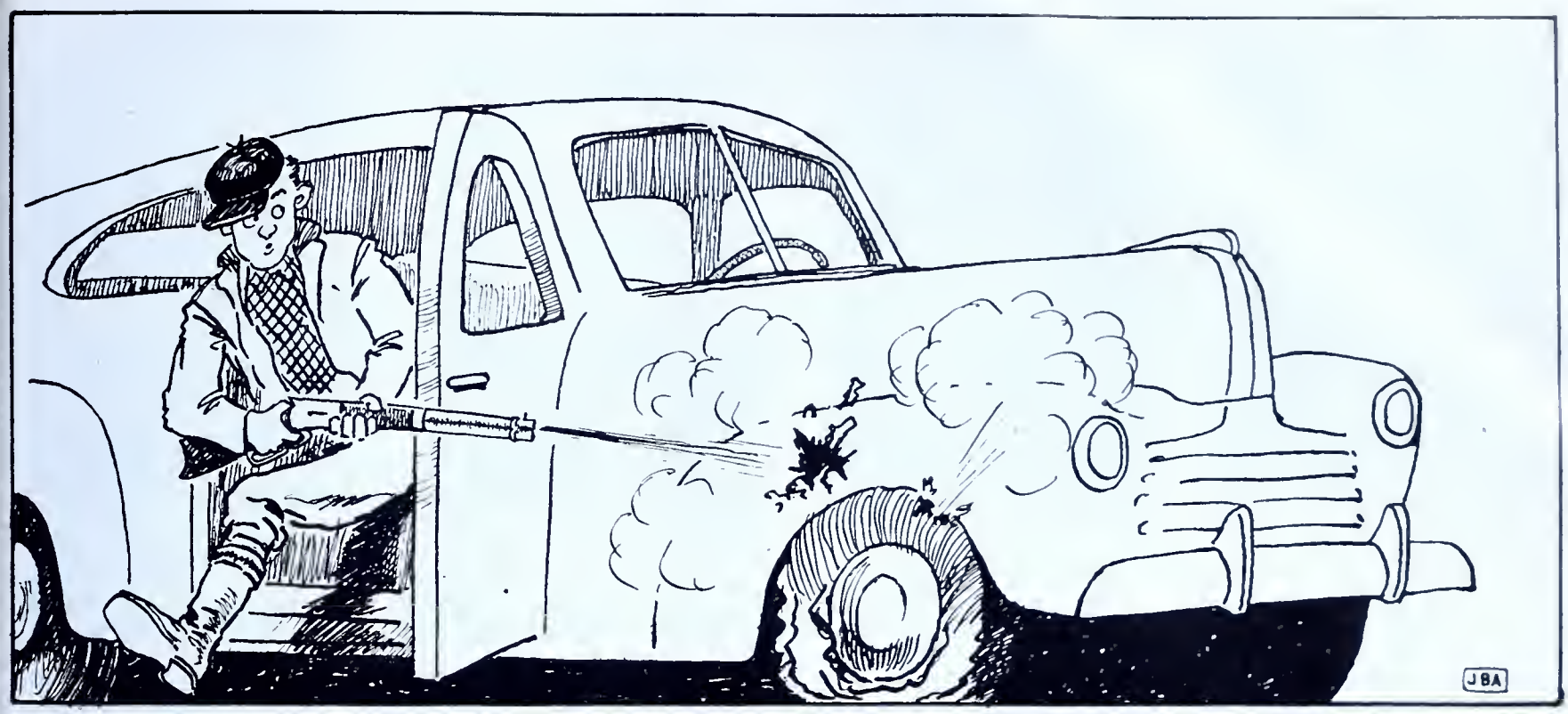
Uncle Noah regarded us approvingly.

"Allers eat till you can't stand up a you'll live to be older'n me," he advised u

As we had to be off before daybreak th next morning, we started for bed righ after supper. Ned donned a pair of purpl pajamas and proceeded to strap himself int an elaborate sleeping-bag lined with dow while I rolled myself up in a blanket. De licious waves of sleep were just beatin against my brain when I was aroused b an agonized yell from my friend's cot.

"Something's stinging me to death," h bellowed.

*(Continued on Page 24)*




# LET'S GET BACK TO THE HORSE AND BUGGY DAYS

## By Fred Fisher

NO DOUBT you have noticed a change in big game hunting methods during the past decade. The advent of good roads, spider-webbed in the heart of the big woods, the improved modes of travel, greater comforts added to the old deer camps, have made this change possible. It has created many different types of big game hunters, and has also made big game hunting more dangerous. Let us analyze these new hunting methods and see why they are dangerous.

First we have old reliable, the sniper. This fellow lay dormant for the past few years, but since organized drives have come back in full swing, he has again put in his appearance. This is the gent who, upon reaching the deer woods, will listen very intently, hoping to hear the whistles and yelps of an organized deer hunt. After locating the party, he follows along, knowing that sooner or later they are going to rout a deer, and he will probably get some shooting. Why is this type of hunting dangerous? The routed deer could very easily swing in your direction, and you will become a target for a volley of bullets, anywhere from the size of a 250/3000th to a 12 gauge pumpkin ball. Just another way of ringing down the curtain on the last act.

Number two. This gent is probably a hangover from the flag pole sitter. His favorite lookout is generally the top of some high tree. Yes, it's legal, *but dangerous.* In the first place he generally forgets to unload his gun either going up or coming down from his lofty perch. He also must not forget that a stray bullet has clear sailing—no brush, trees or high knolls to veer it from its course. Better stay on the ground, pal. You will feel a lot more comfortable and safe.

**This gent is probably a hangover from the flagpole sitter.**

Number three is the good old rocking chair hunter. No frost biting his fingers, no brush slapping him in the face, no snow sifting down his back, no heavy rifle or hills to tire him out, no fresh air to dilute his lungs, no new blood coursing through his veins, no appetite gonna worry him. Why? Because this gent is sitting back of a steering wheel, heater turned on, trusty rifle by his side. He tours every road in the deer country, hoping to see one standing. Where? It makes no difference. One fellow bragged when he told me that he drove over 1200 miles one deer season. Legal? Yes. Dangerous? *Yes.* Judge for yourself after reading the following:

One hunter, in his excitement, forgot to draw the brakes after jumping out of the car. Result—one badly demolished car at the bottom of a ravine.

Another fellow tried to set a record in loading a gun, which resulted in one 30/06 through the motor.

Another driver slid off an icy trail, damaging his car and landing himself in the hospital.

These are just a few samples of what happened to rocking chair hunters. Oh, I know you will say they were just careless, but just a minute, pal. The sudden appearance of a big buck, and all caution goes out the window.

And then there is hunter number four. Let's just call this character Whimpy, The Meat Hog. He delights in polishing off a deer after it has been mortally wounded and is unable to get up. Then he tells the world what a swell shot he made at 300 yards with the deer in full flight. This character also enjoys relieving some teenage hunters of their trophies and, as a last resort, doesn't mind taking one away from

*(Continued on Page 30)*

Oscar A. Becker
President

Robert Cooper
First Vice-President

Dale Furst
Second Vice-President

Dr. C. A. Mortimer
Secretary-Treasurer

# Fifteenth Annual Federation Meeting, Harrisburg, February 16

After a period of two years, during which it was by no means inactive, the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs held its 14th annual meeting in the Forum of the Education Building at Harrisburg on Saturday, February 16. The Conference was presaged as usual by a meeting of the Resolutions Committee held the day before, out of which developed numerous suggestions with regard to the Game, Fish and Forestry Programs as follows:

Game Resolutions were approved to:

Maintain the bounty on predatory animals.
Change the Law to provide for the legal killing of gray foxes in Delaware County.
Establish the per diem pay of Deputy Game Protectors at $6.00 and increase the daily expense allowance to $5.00.
Pay authorized live-game trapping agents 75c per rabbit and $1.00 per pheasant.
Omit the phrase "commonly called blackbirds" from the hunting license when referring to the grackle.
Declare a season on both antlered and antlerless deer in that part of Pennsylvania lying south of Route No. 22 and east of the Susquehanna River in 1946, excluding Lancaster County.
Open the big and small game seasons on the first Saturday nearest the first of November and December as reaffirmed by Resolution No. 66 of the Federation.
Keep the Training School at its present location.
Publish the season dates for hunting six months in advance.
Inaugurate an intense program to place salt licks in big game areas.
Place the skunk on the vermin list.
Revert to the pre-war practice of purchasing rabbits.
Declare one full week between bear and deer seasons.
Limit muskrat trapping to one month.
Open muskrat season Saturday nearest the week preceding the opening of the deer season.
Establish mink and muskrat seasons to run concurrently.
Raise twice as many ringnecks as at present.
Establish more game farms for ringnecks.
Hold at least 50% of ringnecks for Spring stocking.
Intercede with Ohio to open coon season in both States in November.
Establish the same season for Varying Hares as in 1945.
Continue the fibroid hunting license tags but redesign them to include a detachable part to tag large game animals.
Extend season on woodchuck from June 1 to September 30.
Reaffirm the 1945 season on doves.
Establish necessary fire lanes on game lands.
Consult County Federations before establishing any special seasons.
Establish more turkey propagation areas.
Make every effort to identify all enemies and locate every other cause for the decrease in the grouse population.
Make a survey of the acreage of real grouse and snowshoe rabbit cover inundated by beavers.

Game Resolutions were Disapproved to:

Require each large game hunter to wear one square foot of bright red on the front and back of outer garment.
Close the season on quail for 2 years.
Reduce the daily bag of cottontails to 3 and the season limit to 15.
To purchase bulldozer for each game division.

Fish Resolutions were approved to:

Increase the salary of Fish Wardens to at least $150 per month.
Oppose the commercialization of any fish other than carp.
Increase the fee for fishing licenses from $1.50 to $2.00 and earmarking 25% for acquiring streams for fishing.
Recommend no laxity in the enforcement of the law permitting no fishing in streams stocked with trout between the hours of 5 p. m. April 14 and 5 a. m. April 15.
Pay $6.00 per day and $5.00 expenses to Special Fish Wardens when on authorized duty under supervision of the District Fish Warden.

Fish Resolutions were Disapproved to:

Set the trout season from April 15 to June 30 and reopen September 1 to September 30.

General Resolutions were Approved to:

Pay all field personnel of both the Fish and Game Commissions a flat increase of $300 immediately.
Draft necessary legislation to provide that all monies from dog licenses be paid to the Game Commission and that the Commission enforce the dog laws.
Establish a State Recreational Area by the Department of Forests and Waters.
Endorse the efforts of the State Divisions to establish Recreational Areas by the Departmen of Forests and Waters in counties having no such areas.
Take further steps to better control stray dogs.
Provide for the Commonwealth to pay for the Pasteur Treatment given to any individual bitten by a rabid dog; that the State pay the fair value of any licensed dog killed or destroyed because of a bite or damages not to exceed $100 per dog; and that a dog law enforcement officer be appointed for each county.
Confine advertising efforts by the Department of Commerce to the scenic and historic advantages of traveling in the State.
To create public opinion against the merger of the Fish and Game Commissions or their combination with any other department of the Commonwealth and that the Federation President appoint a committee of one man from each Division to inaugurate a vigorous campaign to forestall any such movements.
Favor the strongest Bill requiring the rehabilitation of strip mined land.
Create a State Service Corps to be directed from the Governor's office for assignment to the various State agencies as a need arises for conservation services, such agency to be headed, as far as possible, by veterans.
Petition the Dept. of Forests & Waters to construct a dam across French Creek at Venango, Crawford Co., to raise the water level 6 to 10 feet, thereby backing the water up approximately 2 miles.
Petition the Dept. of Forests and Waters to construct dams in various sections of the State provided said divisions suggest and approve the sites to be reclaimed.
Recommend the salaries of Game Protectors, Fish Wardens and Forest Rangers be increased so they will be on a par with those of men in industry and where they will attract and hold men of the finest type.
Encourage all counties in the state to become interested in the welfare of wildlife to the point where they will organize their clubs into county units and send delegates to the Federation meetings.
Remove the Sanitary Water Board from the Dept. of Health and establish it as a separate department.
Recommend that the Game and Fish Commissions issue orders to all protectors and wardens to report to headquarters annually the names and locations of all private hunting and fishing grounds, thus enabling the Commissions to compel the operators thereof to comply with state laws.
Request Senators Meyers and Guffey to use every power and influence to bring S-924 before the U. S. Senate and vote favorably upon it, and that corresponding action be taken on H. R. 4503. These bills would insure fish and wildlife welfare through provision of huge post war programs contemplated by various Federal agencies.
Oppose S-1678, S-1755 or any similar undesirable firearms legislation.
Petition the Extension Service at State College to add to its staff a wildlife specialist to work with 4-H clubs and others on conservation projects, the salary and expense to be borne by the college.
Recommend that action be taken by the proper State Authorities to abolish pollution in the Juniata River.
Support a move to the 10% tax on fishing tackle now collected by the Federal Government will be re-distributed to the State on a pro-rata basis and administered like the Pittman-Robertson Act.
Request a more strict enforcement of present laws which seek to prevent the wilful disposal of garbage and refuse in streams, lakes, woodlands and along highways, or if the present law is inadequate then recommend enactment of a remedial one.
Recommend that the Fish Commission investigate the large number of limestone springs in the Commonwealth and if found suitable purchase them for the purpose of propagating fish or for use in any other manner to promote better fishing. If not suitable for fish then recommend some other state department purchase them for parks or some other purpose.
Support a proposal to have the proper state authorities include the purification of the Big Catawissa stream, from Lofty to the Susquehanna, in the stream clearance plans now being formulated.
Support Federal House Resolution No. 3972 (the Bailey Bill) which would permit firms installing disposal plants, under the Pennsylvania Pure Streams Program, treat the cost of the same as a deductible item from their gross income for income tax purposes.

## Judge Ladner Given Conservation Award

The Meeting was brought to order by retiring President Colin Reed, who dispensed

**Hon. James H. Duff, Attorney General**

with the formalities of regular routine to introduce Judge Grover Ladner, a former President of the Federation, and long a strong advocate and fighter for stream purification and conservation in general. The Federation honored the Judge by giving him the first Conservation Award ever presented by that organization.

Judge Ladner spoke briefly as follows:

"You, like all other conservationists, have been greatly heartened by the remarkable stepping up of our campaign for pure streams. You know better than anybody else what a long fight it was. For twenty-five years we have been calling attention to the pollution of streams without apparent success, but things that are right eventually succeed. You and I remember in the old days when we first called the attention of the Pennsylvania people to the condition of our streams and the threat that it held for the future prosperity of the State. We were apt to be regarded as a kind of crack-brain in thinking we could have clean streams and industry too. They went out of their way to jeer at what we said and thought, because they thought all we were interested in was the fish in the stream, and over and over again you heard it repeated that industry was more important than streams.

"During that long period we did get support from other conservation-minded people, but usually those organizations had some other major objective and sooner or later they fell by the wayside, leaving the sportsmen of the State to carry on the fight alone. Despite all the misrepresentation of our motives, we knew in our hearts it was not a matter of fish, it was a matter of human life that we were striving to protect. You knew better than anybody else—you followed the game tracks and the fishing streams, and you have seen nature with a loving eye. You know what I know, and what the public today is realizing, the abuse of streams. You knew the day would come when the people realized so and fought conscientiously for the principle, undeterred by jeers or ridicule, and kept on fighting.

"After a while the public began to realize that, and instead of remaining inarticulate they began to be heard. Our enemy was a small group of industry. I say small because it is not true that all industry profits by stream pollution. If it was broken down you would find that some 80% stand to profit more from clean water than the rest. The larger group did choose to fight. You found Chambers of Commerce indifferent, and all for the same reason, that it might hurt business.

"I am very happy I have lived to see the day when an administration produced an attorney general who was one of us in heart and service—who does not give lip service but feels in his very soul that the health, prosperity and future happiness of the people of this State depends on cleaning up the streams—not tomorrow but now, therefore, I think it was a magnificent gain for the people of this Commonwealth when the present Governor, who regarded his platform as a pledge and not as a program, selected a lawyer of exceptional ability from his own end of the State, who was a genuine conservationist, and gave our great movement the push that it never had before. When he talks to you about pure streams you will know he talks from the heart, and believe it or not he can make a better pure stream speech than even I can."

### *Attorney General Duff Presented Stream Purification Needs*

Judge Ladner concluded his remarks by introducing the Hon. James Duff, Attorney General of the Commonwealth, who said:

"It is a pleasure to appear before a group like you, who are in sympathy with the program we have been trying to give some impetus to, particularly in view of the fact that almost daily I am in correspondence or in meetings with people whose purpose is not to give it impetus but block it; for there are many who still haven't found out that pure streams are necessary in Pennsylvania, not only in order that we may live but also that the people of Pennsylvania may properly make a living—that water is important in the daily life of us all.

"In the beginning I want to say that Judge Ladner deserves undying credit for the stream bill that he wrote when he was Deputy Attorney General, because that is the basis of everything that has happened in the cleaning up of the streams of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. One of the things that impresses me in the objections to what we are trying to do is that they are almost entirely selfish and on a money basis. It is a great mistake for you to imagine that all objections to cooperation are by financial groups. Since we have endeavored to put into effect the program of cleaning up the streams, which includes cleaning up the sewage in streams, and cleaning up silt in mine waters, I have found some of the most determined objectors are municipal authorities. They hit upon the same defense that objecting corporations sometimes do for the purpose of escaping their manifest obligation.

"Where I come from in the western part of Pennsylvania, the development of the coal industry and the introduction of large amounts of mine drainage, has made the streams ribbons of death everywhere they go. Nothing will live in them except vermin and disease germs. If we put on a program it can't be on the basis of fish, it must be on the basis of benefit for all the people of the State. I am thoroughly convinced there is no single thing in Pennsylvania or elsewhere that is as beneficial to the future health and welfare of Pennsylvania and the nation as cleaning up the streams of Pennsylvania and the nation.

"We look back upon some of our ancestors with a good deal of condescension, because we feel they did a lot of things and had a lot of habits we couldn't tolerate. It has only been two hundred years ago in England, and America too, when every unwanted thing in the house was thrown on the street. If you had a dead animal, a dead cat or rat, it was thrown right in the street in front of the house. They didn't have inside toilets and the contents of what takes place inside the toilets wasn't taken someplace else—it was tossed in the street. That was cus-

*(Continued on Page 26)*

Photo by Delbert Batcheler

**The Federation honored Judge Ladner, shown above in his chambers in Philadelphia, with the first Conservation Award ever presented by that organization.**

# MOLES

By CAROLINE A. HEPPENSTALL
Assistant Curator of Mammalogy
Carnegie Museum

Miss Heppenstall

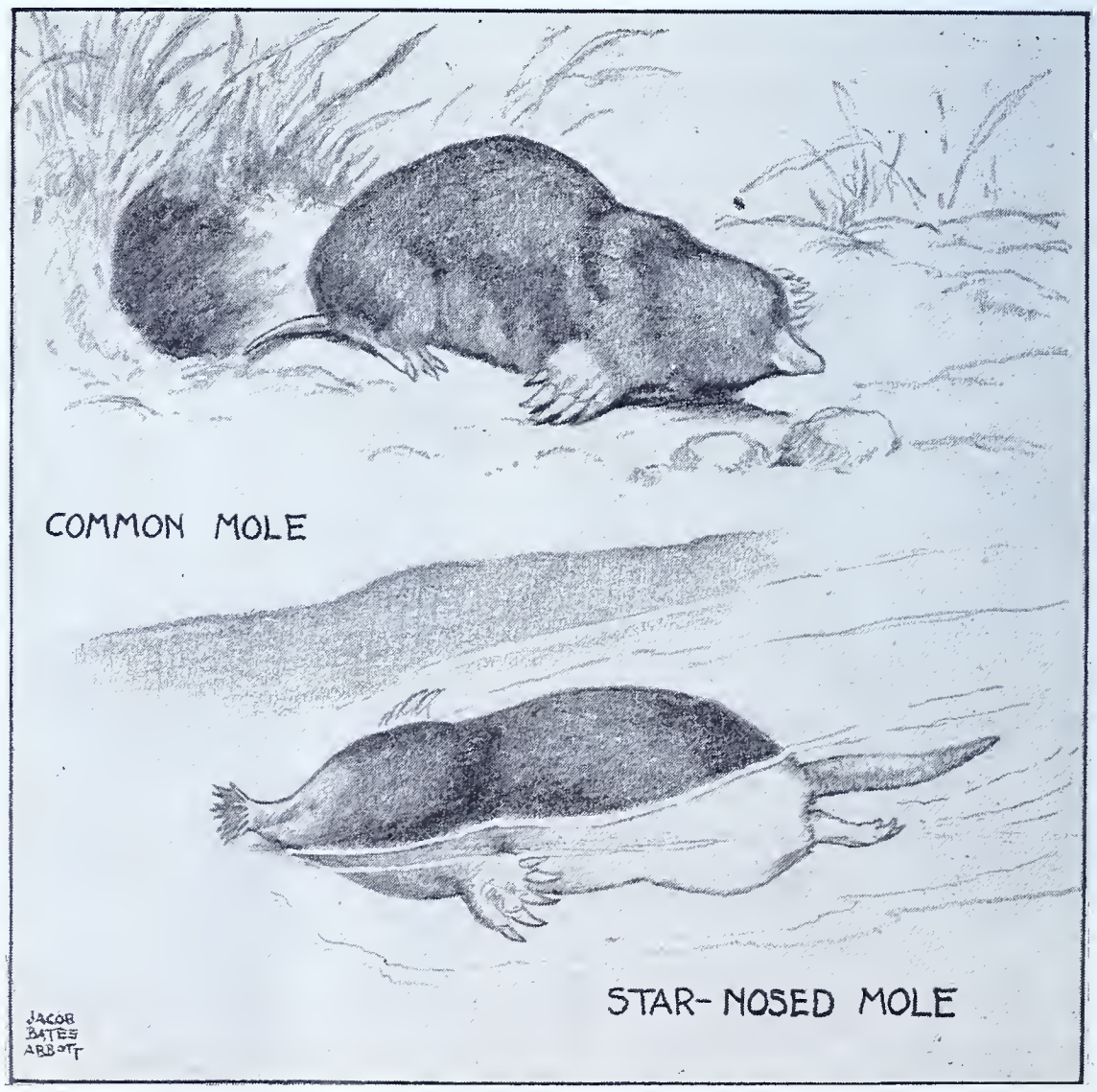
A LONG, unsightly ridge in the middle of a well-kept lawn, a mound on the side of an otherwise flawless golf green, or a row of uprooted lima beans makes very evident the presence of the unwelcome mole. The animal itself is seldom seen, and few there are who wish to cultivate its acquaintance. It is a nuisance, to be eradicated as quickly as possible, and an unwelcome visitor whenever it may appear. This attitude, however, is not quite fair to the mole, and should be tempered with knowledge and judgment, for this animal is decidedly beneficial as well as harmful. On the debit side of the ledger it may be said that he disfigures lawns and provides highways in gardens for field and pine mice; but on the credit side, he destroys countless insects and aids materially in the formation of soil. W. J. Hamilton, Jr., writes, "A captive mole which weighed 50 grams devoured 66 grams of earthworms and insect larvae in 24 hours," and this is an excellent record indeed. The larvae of Japanese beetles are fair game for him, and he is enthusiastic in his search for the scourge. The mole is insectivorous and carnivorous, and when dry yellow grass appears on the lawns, where the mole has broken the grass stocks and raised the sod, it must be remembered that he was after insect food and not plant food. The meadow mice, who follow the runways that he has made, often take advantage of the exposed plant roots and eat them, and the mole is blamed for the resultant damage.

A mole is not a handsome animal, but he is an interesting one. In form he is small, built low to the ground, has highly specialized forelimbs with hands as broad as they are long, practically no neck, an elongated and mobile snout, small, well-hidden ears and minute, almost useless eyes. His fur is soft, velvet-like, short and strokes as easily in one direction as another. It is thought that the tail is a sensitive, tactile organ, which may serve to guide the animal when it moves backward through the burrow. His habits are almost entirely fossorial; that is, he spends almost all of his time under ground. For that reason it is not necessary that he have keen eyesight, nor that he be swift of foot. He has few enemies, although hawks, owls, skunks, weasels, cats, and, occasionally, predatory fish do take their toll. The mole is an active animal, and, if the soil is favorable, makes an extensive series of runways, many of which are used only once. Almost all of these runways are made solely for the purpose of obtaining food, and are not underground highways. During the winter he does not hibernate, but makes deep tunnels and remains active throughout the bitter months. He has a central nest-chamber, usually about a foot, to a foot and a half below the surface, and in this chamber there is a nest about six inches in diameter, lined with small roots, grass, or leaves. This chamber usually has several approaches, with one from below. In progressing through the soil it has often been said that the mole literally swims, for they are exceedingly strong and move with a breast-stroke type of movement. When a runway passes close to the surface of the earth the roof of the tunnel is raised above the ground-level, but if the tunnel is a deep one the soil is pushed up a short, vertical chimney and piles on the surface as a mound. Their main food consists of beetles, larvae, angleworms, earthworms, grubs, ants and an occasional meadow mouse. It is often difficult to trap moles because they push the dirt in front of them as they burrow, and spring the traps, but they can be caught if they are observed at work just below the surface. A sharp rap on the moving surface, a thrust of the blade of a shovel down under the mole, and the stunned mammal can be thrown out and captured. Young animals are seldom seen, for they leave the nest only when they are nearly full-grown.

In Pennsylvania there are three varieties of moles. East of the Alleghenies the Common or Eastern Mole *(Scalopus aquaticus)* occurs. It is blackish brown in color, although it varies from brownish to silvery gray in different lights, and is paler in the summer. It is about six to seven inches in length and is characterized by a short, nearly naked tail. From two to five young are born in March or April. This mole prefers a loose, well-drained soil, frequents open fields and pastures, but sometimes occurs in thin woods or pastures.

West of the Alleghenies in Pennsylvania the Hairy-tailed or Brewer Mole is the familiar mole. This animal is about six inches long and has a short, hairy tail. In April or May it gives birth to from four to five young. It prefers well drained, light soils, dislikes damp areas or clay soils, and is found in pasture lands as well as wooded forests of birch, hemlock and pines.

*(Continued on Page 25)*



# Guns and Gun Dogs

## DRY SNAPPING

### By Ted Trueblood

ONE definition of an art is something which can be acquired only by practice, and if this is true, then handgun shooting definitely falls into that category. Skill with either pistol or revolver can be developed and retained only by constant practice.

A man can take his deer rifle to the range a couple of times during the summer and once more in October or November to check the sights and maintain a speaking acquaintance with the piece, and he then can expect to do fairly well, at least on standing targets at reasonable range, during the buck season.

Not so the pistol man. If he stops practicing for a few months he must go through a rigorous training program before he can call his shots with reasonable certainty again. If he stops shooting for a year he has to resume it a virtual beginner.

Now, it is unfortunate that every pistol fan can't have a range in his basement or backyard, but modern living being what it is, most of us are fortunate even to have the basement and backyard—much less the range. Lacking a place to shoot at home, target practice is bound to be irregular. I know from experience that there are at least 7,000 varieties of interruptions which occur around the average household to keep a man from making a regular, weekly range visit, even when one is available within reasonable distance.

The result is that the enthusiastic would-be pistol shot gets to practice on only about one weekend out of four. At the end of a year, which sees his high hopes to become expert shattered, he is about ready to trade his pistol in on a bicycle for one of the kids. Even if he keeps his gun, he is likely to put it away with his camping equipment and forget it until he goes on a fishing or hunting trip.

At camp he misses a tin can sitting on a stump a few times, and says apologetically to the gang: "Guess I'll never be able to hit anything with a pistol," and sadly puts his gun away.

This condition need not exist, and many men do keep in practice without firing a shot oftener than once a month. Of course, it would be better and help to sustain interest if one could shoot oftener, but it isn't absolutely necessary. You can keep in good form by dry snapping and, as a matter of fact, this kind of practice is essential to becoming a good pistol shot even when a man can shoot as much as he wants.

The beauty of dry snapping is that you can do it anywhere, in your shop, garage or even your bedroom. It requires only a few minutes a day, and the only equipment necessary is your gun. A round, black spot, about the size of a nickel, on a piece of plain, white paper is a good mark at which to aim across an ordinary-size room, but you don't need to go to even this much trouble. I have "fired" thousands of dry rounds at door knobs.

The question logically arises whether this snapping, in which the hammer fall is not cushioned by the primer of a loaded cartridge, will harm the gun. In the case of any first-class revolver, I can state definitely that it will not. I have snapped a Smith & Wesson Military and Police Target and a Colt Officer's Model thousands of times and neither of them has any visible wear or other ill effects to show for it. I am not so sure in the case of my 4½-inch barrel Woodsman, however. A firing pin broke in this gun several years ago and this may have been caused by dry snapping.

Even if I were sure that snapping was to blame, I would continue to do so. A new firing pin costs only 40 cents and can be replaced at home in a few minutes. After all, 40 cents is only a nickel more than the price of a box of hollow-point long rifles, and the gun usually will shoot with a broken pin, so it can be used until a new one arrives from Colt.

With a revolver, either double- or single-action snapping is virtually the same as actual shooting, so far as the mechanics of gun operation are concerned. With an automatic it is necessary, of course, to cock the gun for each "shot," and this is somewhat difficult with either the Woodsman or hammerless High Standard until you develop the proper knack. The secret lies in keeping your gun arm almost straight as you lower it, and taking a firm grip on the slide

*(Continued on Page 25)*

## THE SUPERLATIVE SHOOTING DOG

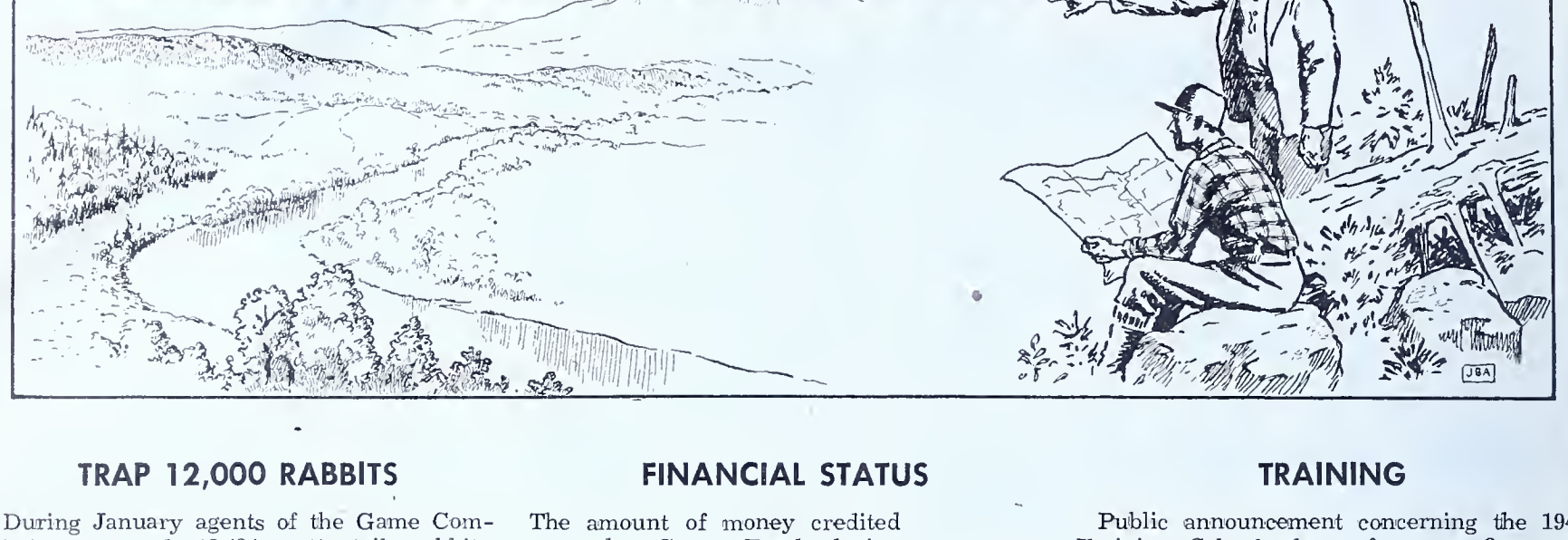
### By Herbert Kendrick

BEFORE delving into the arduous task of dog training, perhaps it would be advisable to study a few of the qualifications of a finished performer, to obtain a better understanding of what to expect when the training period has ended. The standards of bird dog perfection are reasonably well established, differing mainly in the matter of range, speed, and methods of working various cover. The trainer should be familiar with the qualities that make up an excellent gun dog, form an ideal in his own mind, and exert every effort to make the promising youngster conform to that ideal. Today that ideal is higher because sportsmen are demanding more of quality in their dogs, and very few are satisfied to shoot over ordinary meat dogs. They have learned to know the esthetic and inspirational value of shooting over the stylish points of a superlative performer. To know the fine qualities that constitute really high class efficient work before the gun, makes it possible for the trainer to systematically follow definite rules of training, which will ultimately bring the desired results.

The truly great shooting dog possesses a good nose, is endowed with intelligent bird sense, and is strong of body. He moves speedily with a long smooth easy stride, carries his head high, and uses a merry tail. These characteristics are his through heredity, and careful early development. All the remaining qualities of this dog of dogs are acquired by training and experience. Close association of trainer and dog is essential because a bond of affection is established between the two that nothing else can equal. The dog that loves his master will obey him, work for him, and will even face death for him. The same is true of the devotion the master has for the dog. Without this deep feeling the dog never becomes really great, and the gunner never reaps the full benefits of a perfect hunting companion.

The superlative shooting dog is able to survey the country to be hunted, and in-

*(Continued on Page 25)*




## TRAP 12,000 RABBITS

During January agents of the Game Commission trapped 12,434 cottontail rabbits, 282 pheasants, 114 squirrels, and 7 raccoons throughout Pennsylvania and transferred them to lands open to public hunting. The bunnies were taken from within city and borough limits, parks, water sheds, commercial nurseries and other areas where they could not be hunted and where they constitute a menace to growing things.

The animals are trapped much more readily when snow is on the ground and their natural food is covered. At that time the bait in the rabbit traps is much more enticing.

## PROSECUTIONS

During January field officers of the Commission brought 114 prosecutions for violation of the Game Law and collected $9,194.00 in penalties. The majority of offenses were for violation of the trapping laws.

## FINANCIAL STATUS

| | |
|---|---|
| The amount of money credited to the Game Fund during January 1946 amounted to .. | $ 152,764.70 |
| The amount disbursed from the Game Fund during January 1946 was ..... | 215,411.21 |
| The Treasury Department Game Fund balance as of January 31, 1946 amounted to ..... | 2,847,282.29 |

(Exclusive of $200,000.00 invested in Government Bonds. The balance includes the War-Time Reserve, although no deduction is made for commitments and unwarranted requisitions as of January 31, 1946.)

## REVOCATIONS

This month for the first time we are publishing a list of license revocations on Page 32. Other lists will be published in subsequent issues.

Above are some of the rabbits trapped from the Letterkenny Ordnance Depot in Franklin County through the cooperation of Army officials.

## TRAINING

Public announcement concerning the 1946 Training School class of twenty-five men was made in the February issue and in the newspapers of the State on February 28th.

Printed brochures giving in detail the requirements and qualifications for admission to the school have been mailed to 1,109 applicants who had requested this information during the past three or four years and whose names were in the file. Nearly all of these applicants are veterans, many of whom have written while in the Military Service from all parts of the world, stating that in the post-war period they were interested in securing a position as a field officer of the Pennsylvania Game Commission. In addition, brochures have been mailed to 102 new applicants since February 28, or a grand total of 1,211 who have requested information concerning the school and the entrance examinations.

Formal applications have been mailed to a total of 701 of these applicants. No doubt the others will request applications in the near future. All applications must be mailed not later than midnight April 1, 1946.

The Training School is located on a large tract of State Game Lands, seven miles Northwest of Brockway, Jefferson County, Pennsylvania. The examination will likely be held on Saturday, May 4, 1946, at a place to be designated in Harrisburg. The term will last one year beginning June 1, 1946.

The general requirements call for men 23 to 35 years of age with a minimum height of 5 feet 8 inches taken in stocking feet and a minimum weight of 140 pounds stripped of all clothing. Certain exceptions are made in age for Veterans, Deputy Game Protectors and Acting District Game Protectors, and in height for Deputy Game Protectors and Acting District Game Protectors. Veterans, Deputies and Acting Protectors will also receive examination credits. Each applicant is required to pass a 20/30 vision and color test without glasses and must pass the prescribed rigid physical examination. Waivers will not be granted in the established requirements.

Complete information and an application blank will be furnished upon request by writing to the Division of Training, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

# IN MEMORIAL

**It is with deepest regret that we announce the passing of Game Protector Ralph E. McCoy, Lewistown, one of the old-timers of the Commission, who succumbed to a cerebral hemorrhage on February 25.**

**Ralph's cheerful personality will be missed very much by his fellow workers and by the sportsmen of his district, with whom he was very popular.**

**Protector McCoy will also be missed by the Commission for he was an outstanding employee—loyal, conscientious, and highly devoted to duty.**

**Game Protector McCoy entered the Commission's employ September 1, 1916 as a Refuge Keeper and was appointed to the position of Game Protector on November 1, 1919. In September 1946 he would have completed thirty years of continuous service.**

**The Commission extends heartfelt sympathy to Protector McCoy's family.**

## RESOLUTION

Be it resolved, by the Northwestern Division of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, that field officers of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, namely, W. C. Shaffer, Howard K. Hancock, Arthur G. Logue, Cecil Hancock, Max Ostrum, and Fish Wardens George Blose and Teal Cox be highly commended for their outstanding service to the sportsmen of Pennsylvania, in the case of Ezra Shutt of Cameron County, unlawful killing of deer before open season, as published in the December 1945 issue of PENNSYLVANIA GAME NEWS, and written by W. C. Shaffer. The resolution was unanimously approved January 13, 1946.

---

Kingbirds, which grow to be eight inches long, can see insects 170 feet away.

---

If you want to keep fishworms in captivity put them in a wash-tub filled with a half-and-half mixture of rich earth and dried coffee grounds; a pound each of vegetable shortening and corn meal will feed 5,000 for a month.

# BOUNTY CLAIMS HIGHEST IN HISTORY

Pennsylvania's accumulated predator problem is being solved. Through the combined efforts of trappers and its own field employees, a very appreciable dent is being made in the ranks of all predatory creatures upon which bounty is paid.

Bounty payments for the fiscal year June 1, 1945 to May 31, 1946, will far exceed the all-time record of 1921-22 when a total of $134,322.50 was expended. The amount spent from June 1 to the end of February already totals $161,269, with the end of the fiscal year three months away. For the same period the previous fiscal year only $37,707 was expended, whereas, during the entire previous fiscal year only $48,856.00 was spent.

Almost 37,000 foxes alone have been taken from June 1 to the end of February. Over 17,000 of these were taken in fifteen counties, as follows: Tioga, 1,870; Susquehanna, 1,842; Greene, 1,673; Bradford, 1,666; Potter, 1,479; Wayne, 1,367; Washington, 1,009; Warren, 1,007; Somerset, 984; Lycoming, 882; McKean, 857; Centre, 848; Jefferson, 746; Clearfield, 732; Crawford, 677.

Fox bounties, plus the value of their pelts, puts a lot of good folding money in the pockets of trappers and hunters who could not help control these and other predators during the war years when they were either in the service or engaged in war time jobs. Now that they are assiduously hunting them or running traplines they are not only helping keep predators in check to the benefit of the hunter and farmer but are reaping a tidy reward doing so.

# FEDERAL AID

The wide state support of the Federal Aid Wildlife Restoration Act is demonstrated by the fact that every state except Nevada has adopted legislation assenting to the provisions of the act and is now participating, according to Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Director, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

During the past fiscal year 168 Federal Aid projects obligating $1,040,040 were approved. These consisted of 48 research projects, obligating $312,859; 55 development projects at $342,452; 49 land projects at $307,050; and 16 coordination projects at $77,679.

During 1945 the States emphasized the purchase of lands of no particular agricultural value so as to accumulate a backlog of development opportunities for treatment during the postwar period. Of the 49 land projects approved, 44 involved the direct purchase of 39, 456.53 acres in 17 states. Big-game winter ranges and marsh areas to be developed as waterfowl refuges and public shooting grounds comprised the principal part of the acreage approved for purchase.

Under the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, which is commonly called the Pittman-Robertson Act and was approved by Congress in 1937, each participating state pays 25 percent of the cost of a project and the Federal Government 75 percent. For this purpose Congress each year can appropriate a sum not to exceed the total income derived from the 11 percent excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition.

---

Fossils of 28 different kinds of previously unknown animals recently unearthed in Colombia, now at the University of California, include an animal which had habits like a wolf but which was a marsupial, the family of the kangaroo and opossum.

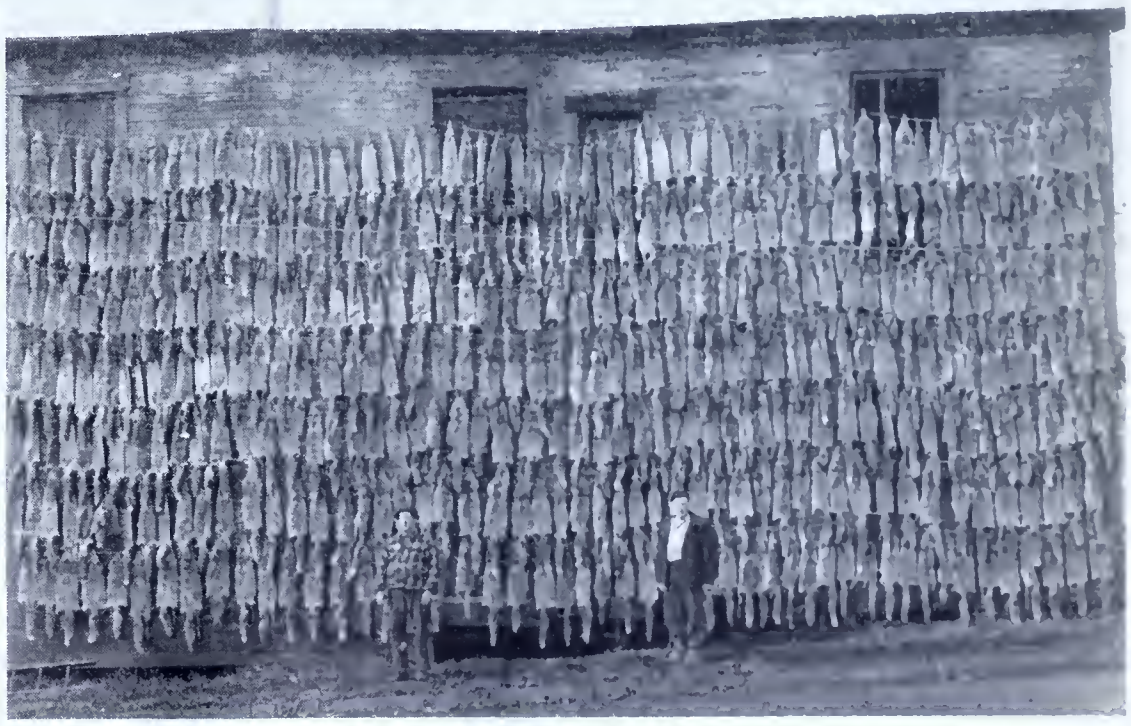


Photo courtesy Washington, Pa., Observer.

**The title for individual honors in predator control in Greene County is shared by Bill Taylor, minor league pitcher for several years with Albany, Toronto, Richmond and other teams, and his brother Roy. The two have shot and trapped more than 400 red and gray foxes since last September.**

**The picture shows pelts of 395 foxes trapped in five townships in Greene County during the late summer and fall trapping season of 1945. Of these 88 were taken from two farms. The foxes were taken on request of landowners whose poultry and livestock were being killed by foxes.**

# Twenty-Fourth Annual Meeting of the Society of American Foresters--Allegheny Section

Photo by Ensminger

**FORESTERS FROM SIX STATES MEET IN HARRISBURG**

New and retiring officers of the Allegheny Section, Society of American Foresters, at the Section's two-day meeting: Left to right—C. A. Hoar, U. S. Forest Service, Philadelphia, executive committeeman; H. C. Buckingham, Annapolis, Md., retiring vice-chairman; Harry W. Dengler, Maryland University, College Park, Md., new secretary-treasurer; James N. Morton, Lemoyne, new chairman; Dr. J. S. Illick, dean of the New York State College of Forestry; D. B. Bonebrake, Bluefield, West Virginia, executive committeeman; Shirley W. Allen, Ann Arbor, Mich., national president; G. Luther Schnur, Philadelphia, retiring chairman; Fred W. Besley, former Maryland State Forester; V. M. Bearer, Ligonier, vice-chairman; J. Ira Kolb, New Lisbon, New Jersey, meetings committee chairman; M. W. Humphrey, Pennsylvania State College, retiring secretary-treasurer.

The Allegheny Section of the Society of American Foresters held its 24th Annual Winter Meeting in Harrisburg on February 15 and 16. This is an organization of Professional and research foresters in State, Federal, and private forestry and includes a membership of approximately 500 foresters from the states of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia and West Virginia.

The theme of the meeting was "What the Local Forester Should Know." The program combined papers on water control, game management, recreation, demands of the forest by the farmer and the chemical and plastic industries, as well as discussions by private owners on the demands of pulp manufacturers and railroads. The program emphasized the complexity of the forestry profession during this period when multiple use of forest areas is of paramount importance.

At the banquet the speaker was the nationally known forest educator, Dr. J. S. Illick, Dean of the New York College of Forestry. His subject was the timely one of "Looking Ahead in Forestry Education."

Shirley W. Allen, Ann Arbor, Michigan, National President of the Society of American Foresters and a member of the faculty of the School of Forestry and Conservation of Michigan, spoke at the closing session of the meeting.

Officers elected for the coming year are James N. Morton, Chairman. He succeeds G. Luther Schnur of Philadelphia. Other new officers are V. M. Bearer, Ligonier, Department of Forests and Waters, Vice-Chairman; H. W. Dengler, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, Secretary-Treasurer; D. B. Bonebrake, Bluefield, West Virginia, and Crosby A. Hoar, U. S. Forest Service, Philadelphia, Executive Committeemen.

The address of welcome was given by James A. Kell, Secretary of the Department of Forests and Waters. Speakers included Seth Gordon on "The Forester's Stake in Game Management"; John E. Clark, Maryland, on "The Farmers Demands upon the Forest"; George J. Pecaro, New Jersey, "Demands Upon the Forest for Pulp Manufacture"; O. K. Quivey, B & O Railroad on "Forestry and the Railroads"; Dr. C. R. Hursh of the Appalachian Forest Experiment Station, North Carolina, on "What the Local Forester Should Know About the Management of Water Resources"; C. P. Wilbur, New Jersey State Forester on "Recreation Demands Upon Forest"; R. M. Carter, Northeast Forest Experiment Station, Philadelphia, on "Demands of the Chemical and Plastic Industries Upon the Forest"; and J. F. Kaylor, Maryland State Forester on "New Forest Plans Summation."

## NOTICE TO TEACHERS

When Game Commission publications for use in your schoolroom are desired, please write for them in quantity instead of having the children write individually. This will avoid confusion and save a lot of time.

## THE ALLEGHENIES

By GEO. C. DYAK

A flow of gold and green terrain,
Forged into a marvelous chain,
Of wooded ravines where wildlife hides,
Majestic cliffs where peace abides,
Stately in winter's mantle of white,
And glowing by summer in amber light,
Proudly their glorious pinnacles stand,
These mountains fashioned by God's own hand.

## "HAMHEAD HOG"

**By S. A. Orr and R. G. Rodkey**

## MORE DUCKS KILLED

According to Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, more waterfowl were killed in 1945 than were produced on the breeding grounds. In a report to Secretary of the Interior Ickes, summarized by the Sportsmen's Service Bureau, the Fish and Wildlife Service head describes what he feels is a threat to the future of migratory waterfowl hunting.

He states that the 1945 kill was higher than that of 1944. Preliminary figures, he points out, indicate a 20% increase over the record 1,458,628 duck stamps sold in 1944, with about 25% more duck hunters actually afield. He believes that they more than accounted for 1945's estimated 20,000,000 duck crop, which increased the approximate 105,500,000 total revealed by the Service's January survey to around 125,000,000 birds at the start of the season.

"It is obvious from this survey and from other reports coming in from our field men that waterfowl are not increasing in numbers as fast as waterfowl hunters," declares Dr. Gabrielson. "Next year the situation can be expected to be even more serious. More men will be released from military service and more ammunition will be available, but I doubt if there will be more ducks."

*An 87 pound beaver,* the largest ever trapped in Iowa, recently fell victim to the trap of Hank Behrens of Anthon on the Little Sioux River, according to the Sportsmen's Service Bureau. The animal was trapped under a "nuisance" permit, and its weight was verified by Conservation Officer W. W. Trussell of Sioux City. The former record was 81 pounds.

"I insisted on having it mounted and my wife insisted on a fur coat!"

## STATUTORY CHARGES PAID LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES IN LIEU OF TAXES ON GAME LANDS

Even though publicity is given the matter each year, many residents of Pennsylvania still fail to realize that the financial structures of school and road districts and of county governments suffer little tax loss when lands are transferred from private ownership to the Game Commission. The law authorizes the Commission to pay annually a fixed charge of 5c per acre in lieu of taxes which can be no longer assessed, as land owned by the Commonwealth is exempt from local taxation. Of this, 1c is paid to County Treasurers for each acre acquired in the respective Counties and 2c each to Treasurers of Boards of School Directors and to Treasurers of Boards of Road Supervisors for each acre acquired in their districts.

Taxes previously assessed against the major portion of State Game Lands ranged between 4c and 8c per acre, the average probably being about 6c per acre. Those previously paid on tillable land acquired for State Game Farms were, of course, higher since the properties were considerably more valuable and assessed accordingly. It might therefore appear that local governments generally suffer a slight loss by Commission acquisition, but actually in most instances they are placed in a more favorable position than when the lands were in private ownership. They are more certain of receiving annually the fixed charge of 5c per acre from the Commission than the taxes previously assessed. In most of the counties of the State, all too many tracts become tax delinquent and the County Commissioners are compelled to take them over. No revenues accrue to local governmental agencies until the tracts are sold and many remain in County ownership for a long period of years.

For the year 1945, the Commission paid a total of $39,117.24 as fixed charges on lands it has acquired, to treasurers as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| 64 Counties | $ 7,823.16 |
| 368 School Districts | 15,647.04 |
| 368 Road Districts | 15,647.04 |
| | $39,117.24 |

This is not a large sustaining charge to pay local governments in compensation for taxes which might have been collected on presently owned State Game Lands and State Game Farms. On the other hand, even though many of the Treasurers concerned receive only small amounts, it helps materially in financing their necessary activities.

For the twenty-five year period of the Commission's land purchase program, fixed charges paid have amounted to the tidy sum of $461,629.47, an amount which appears large when shown in a lump sum, although not when one remembers that it was spread out over a quarter of a century. Most local governments could not have afforded losing this money, but happily, it caused no serious drain on the Game Fund. Sportsmen can well afford to foot the bill.

## RESIGNS

Dave Newell, who has been Editor-in-Chief of *Field and Stream* for the past four and a half years, has resigned so that he can devote his entire time to a Florida development and to his radio work in connection with the "Fishing and Hunting Club of the Air" on the Blue Network.

The new Editor-in-Chief will be Hugh Grey, now Managing Editor, and under his editorial direction *Field and Stream* will continue to remain out in front as America's No. 1 sportsman's magazine.

### SUMMARY OF ACREAGES IN GAME MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

On Lands Owned or Under Nominal Control of the Commission — December 31, 1945

| Land Management Classification | No. of Units | Total Area (Acres) | Refuges and Propagation Areas | | Safety Zones | | Open Hunting (Acres) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | No. | Acres | No. | Acres | |
| State Game Lands | 189 | 817,912 | 212 | 58,496 7.1% of Total | | | 759,416 |
| Primary Refuges on State Forests and Other Public Lands | 78 | 51,526 | 78 | 51,526 | | | |
| Auxiliary Refuge Projects (Gen. Class.) | 45 | 36,034 | 50 | 9,911 | | | 26,123 |
| Cooperative Farm-Game Projects | 68 | 162,575 | 675 | 5,451 | 2,104 | 38,596 | 118,528 |
| Game Propagation Areas | 83 | 25,102 | 83 | 25,102 | | | |
| Special Preserves: (A) | | | | | | | |
| Dog Training | 6 | 3,383 | | | | | |
| Archery Hunting | 2 | 1,985 | | | | | |
| State Game Farms | 5 | 3,693 | | | | | |
| | | 1,102,210 Deduct 2,130 (A) | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 476 | 1,100,080 | 1,098 | 150,486 | 2,104 | 38,596 | 904,067 |
| Special Wildlife Refuge Projects (Leased by Spts. Org.) | 125 | 35,594 | 154 | 3,169 | 219 | 2,414 | 30,011 |

(A) Includes two Dog Training Preserves and one Archery Hunting Preserve, totalling 2,130 acres, located on State Game Lands. Hunting is partially restricted. This 2,130 acres is deducted from the "Total Area" so there will be no duplication of acreage.

### LANDS OWNED AND UNDER NOMINAL CONTROL OF THE GAME COMMISSION BY SUPERVISORY DIVISIONS

CLASSIFICATIONS (ACRES)

December 31, 1945

| Field Super. Div | State Game Lands | | Primary Refuges On State Forests, Etc. | Auxiliary Projects General Class | Cooperative Farm-Game Projects | Special Preserves (D) Dog (A) Archery | State Game Farms | Game Propagation Areas | Total Acreage Owned and Leased | Special Wildlife Refuge Projects |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Acreage | Cost | | | | | | | | |
| A | 71,339.50 | $284,161.31 | 1,245 | 5,494 | 88,294.6 | 160(D) | 328.2 | 5,189 | 172,050.30 | 5,160 |
| B | 127,266.00 | 552,711.48 | 2,202 | 4,821 | | 800(D) 1,000(A) | | 6,961 | 143,050.00 | 6,837 |
| C | 161,753.70 | 508,492.60 | 9,602 | 2,516 | | 715(D) | 1,776.7 | 1,832 | 178,195.40 | 4,755 |
| D | 102,830.00 | 327,756.41 | 20,770 | 4,242 | 8,104.6 | | 1,263.4 | 565 | 137,775.00 | 2,702 |
| E | 196,551.69 | 631,413.45 | 10,396 | 12,534 | | | | 9,230 | 228,711.69 | 3,938 |
| F | 92,584.99 | 492,293.63 | 4,686 | 2,226 | 18,635.0 | 985(A) 1,130(D) | 324.9 | 774 | 121,345.89 | 3,195 |
| G | 65,586.40 | 255,416.62 | 2,625 | 4,201 | 47,541.0 | 578(D) | | 551 | 121,082.40 | 8,842 |
| TOTALS | 817,912.28 | $3,052,245.50 | 51,526 | 36,034 | 162,575.2 | 5,368 * | 3,693.2 | 25,102 | 1,102,210.68 | 35,594 |
| | | | | | | | | Deduct | 2,130.00 | |
| | | | | | | | | | 1,100,080.68 | |

* 2,130 acres of this area are State Game Lands: 2 (D) Preserves, 1 (A) Preserve

"Mr. D. B. Hamilton of near Shelocta reported to me that he was sitting in his home one evening when he heard his beagle dog making a lot of unnecessary noise. He told his daughter to see what was wrong with the dog. The daughter looked and reported that nothing was wrong. However, the animal kept making a fuss and Mr. Hamilton decided to investigate. He took a flashlight and went out to the dog pen. There a gray fox had his dog by the back leg. Hamilton ran over, grabbed the fox by the throat and choked it to death.

"Last week I was patrolling in Washington Township near Advance when I saw two men about a mile away on top of a big hill. I could see that they had guns but couldn't tell what they were doing. I parked the car and worked my way up to them. When I got to where they were I found that they were digging out a gray fox, so I waited until they dug it out. They took the fox from the hole alive and remarked that they would like to take it home alive. I told them that if they would tie its mouth shut and its legs together that they could take it alive. We all looked for some strings, and none of us having any, I took the raw-hide laces from my boots ,tied its mouth shut, its legs together, laid it on the ground and covered it over with one of the men's coat. It lay there for about two minutes when all of a sudden it took out from under the coat like a shot and all of us after it. I took a shot at it and missed, and as far as we know it is still going. We never did get it. Now there's a fox loose in Washington Township that owes me a pair of boot laces."—Game Protector Bruce W. Catherman, Indiana, January 1946.

"The winter so far in this district has been almost 100% in favor of game—no snow to amount to anything. At this writing there is no snow at all, with the exception of a few patches in the deep woods.

"The fox kill is still mounting, although I believe that it will take at least another season's kill like the one just past to put them back where they belong. With favorable weather during rearing season, our small game will come back. It should improve each year, unless some unforeseen condition blocks the way.

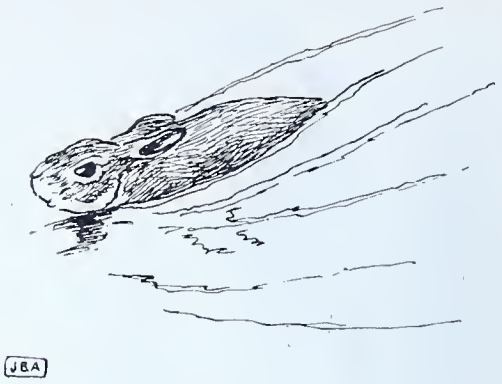
"Dog conditions are not nearly as bad as last winter. I investigated a number of complaints of dogs chasing game. The big majority of these dogs were with fox hunters, who have accounted for a big total of foxes."—Game Protector Fred Fisher, Montrose, January 1946.

"During the mild weather I talked to some lumbermen who reported seeing as many as twelve frogs in one day while cutting timber in one of the large swampy areas hereabouts. They were unable to give much description so I don't know what kind they were. One old lumberman said he never saw frogs in January in all his thirty-five years experience. I never did either.

"During the past month I tried a kind of trapping that was new to me, and which can produce better results than I obtained. I refer to fox trapping on old sawdust piles. On State Game Lands 101 there are five piles of different age adjacent to an old tram road. On each pile we made a regular dirt hole set, using two traps and a drag to each set, and special January lure. An odd combination of weather conditions proved our undoing. Freezing rains, snow, thaw, then freezing again made pretty tough trapping weather. Three of the five dust piles were pretty old and would usually have a frozen crust of about two inches covering the pile. This was enough to freeze our traps. The other two, not so old, would usually thaw in a day or so after a freezing rain. About the time the traps were free it would rain again. Thus our traps would be almost always frozen. However, I am convinced that if the weather would remain cold, and no freezing rain, those comparatively new sawdust piles would soon become loose enough to allow a trap to work unhindered, regardless of how much snow would fall. This peculiar action of sawdust piles in melting snow on the top, and remaining comparatively loose, combined with a good set, proper use of bait and lure, and the natural tendency of a fox to seek a hummock of ground or other high spot to look over the surrounding country, will undoubtedly take foxes. Every one of the five sawdust piles showed plenty of fox signs, but almost always the traps were frozen. However, we did manage to catch a fox between times."—Game Protector Clair W. Dinger, Albion, January 1946.

---

"I think war should be declared on some of these stray dogs that are running in packs. I was talking to the Dog Agent today, and he told me that he and another fellow killed two dogs running deer; they knew these dogs had already killed one deer. Neither dog had a collar or license and their owner or owners could not be located."—Game Protector George W. Miller, Conoquenessing, January 1946.



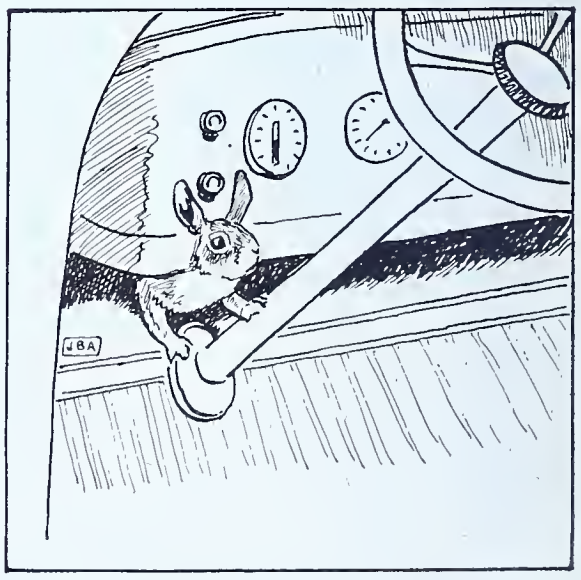

"When the road leading into the propagation area is icy, it is necessary to walk. To make the load lighter, I use burlap bags to carry the rabbits and transfer them into crates at the car. During one of these transfer operations in the pump house, a rabbit escaped. The room into which he ran was flooded with water, probably 18 inches deep. In pursuit, I watched him swim across the room and crawl out on a dry ledge at the far end. Looking toward a nearby window, apparently viewing other escape possibilities, he nonchalantly entered the water again and swam back to me, allowing himself to be caught again. I was in full view in a lighted doorway all this time and I'm still trying to decide whether it was a piece of luck or another demonstration of 'rabbit sense.'"—Game Protector Daniel H. Fackler, Red Lion, January 1946.

---

"I have heard old hunters say that a deer will attack you after it is wounded if you get too close to it, but more or less disbelieved it until this fall when I had an opportunity to talk with a boy who actually had such an experience. He had shot and knocked down an eight-point buck at about 200 yards distance. As he approached the deer and was in the act of laying down his gun, the deer made one lunge for him. In order to protect himself he had to fire from his hip and fortunately made a fatal shot."—Game Protector Lester E. Shaffer, Uniontown, January 1946.

---

"I had a funny experience the other day. A Boy Scout gave me a rabbit he had trapped and, as it was late in the evening, I put it on the back seat of my car in a pasteboard box. The next day when I reached for the box, I discovered that the animal had managed to get out. I could find him nowhere. I used the car all that day and the next morning when I went to get in the car I saw the rabbit scrambling around on the floor by the front seat. I got in the car and watched to see where he went. He managed to climb on top of the heater. I then drove into the country to release him. By that time he had crawled along the defroster hose and finally got himself lodged in back of the dash board. After a little sweating and maneuvering I finally managed to extricate him and released him a little the worse for wear."—Game Protector Clyde E. Laubach, Clearfield, January 1946.




"A Cooper's Hawk that was reluctant to leave its feast of ruffed grouse was recently killed by a train on the Pennsylvania Railroad, east of Nescopeck, Luzerne County."—Game Protector Lewis H. Estep, Berwick, January 1946.

"Rabbit trapping activities this year are not what they were in past seasons. Some agents are getting quite a number of rabbits, but they don't seem to be catching them the way they did last winter. This is probably because there is a light amount of snow and sometimes the ground is bare. This winter so far is a much better winter for game than last, as the winter so far has been rather mild with snow laying a week or two at a time; then it melts off, letting the ground bare for several days and letting the birds and animals feed on bare ground.

"There are a great many deer and rabbits feeding on the cuttings on Game Lands. Deer have been sighted feeding on the cuttings in daylight while the men were cutting saw logs and chemical wood."—Game Protector Lester J. Haney, Brookville, January 1946.

---

"Small game, except squirrels, continue to seem very scarce. Occasionally a rabbit track is noted here and there in areas where in past seasons I trapped out many because of their over-abundance. To date I have not received any complaints of damage to shrubbery, etc.

"As for foxes, there seem to be plenty in most areas despite the extra heavy toll taken by hunters and trappers. At the present time they do not seem to be interested in any type of bait or scent and are extremely hard to trap. In New Milford Township, Susquehanna County, there have been three rabies-infected foxes killed within the space of a week. These foxes either attacked people or were found in and around homes. Fortunately these foxes that attacked people did no damage because of the heavy clothing and footwear worn at this time of year. The trouble to date has been with the gray fox."—Game Protector Howard F. Hoffman, Susquehanna, January 1946.

---

"During the month we had two very unusual experiences with gray foxes. Near Clarksburg a gray fox came to the farm of Woody Compton and stayed around the house for about three days. During the day it would lay in the front yard chewing on a bone and at another time it came into the yard with a rabbit. Whenever anyone would come around, it would run away. It also ate food from the dog dish which was on the back porch. One day Mrs. Compton was out in the yard and the fox chased her into the house. They finally killed the animal by shooting it from the house.

"A few days later another gray fox came around and one evening Mr. Compton was doing chores at the barn when he heard a scuffle upstairs in the loft. He went to see what was causing the racket and saw a gray fox fighting with the cat. The fox ran when he appeared. Upon finishing his chores he started for the house, taking with him a bucket. Between the house and the barn the fox attacked him and he killed it with the bucket. He brought the fox to me. I skinned it and sent the head away for examination. I received the report that the fox positively had rabies."—Game Protector Bruce W. Catherman, Indiana, January 1946.

---

"I know of seven sportsmen's clubs that hunt foxes every Sunday, with an average kill per Sunday of 11 foxes. I also known of one entirely black mink caught in West Deer Township, Allegheny County."—Game Protector Ralph A. Liphart, Homestead, January 1946.

"A fox hunt was staged by the Cambria County Sportsmen's Association on January 27. Despite the sub-zero weather, about 300 hunters turned out for the occasion. Three drives were made and four foxes killed, two reds and two grays. Sandwiches and hot coffee were served by the Patton Sportsmen's Association. A number of other foxes were seen and a large number of deer were routed. Hunters saw a fair amount of grouse and squirrels. All game seemed to be in good condition. Not one rabbit was observed in the area."—Game Protector Nicholas M. Ruha, Ebensburg, January 1946.

---

"The other day while on patrol in Neiltown section I found a number of weasel tracks. It looked to be about 5 or 6 weasels, but after I killed one there were no more tracks. Weasels are very scarce."—Game Protector Carl B. Benson, Tionesta, January 1946.

"We have been observing quite a number of snowy owls in this section during the past two months. I have seen as many as three in one day on State Game Lands. Several of these birds have been killed by hunters during the past few weeks. Goshawks are also rather numerous in Wayne County this winter. I have observed several of these birds. One of them has apparently been making his headquarters in one of the heavily wooded sections of our Game Propagation area. I have tried several times to get this bird, as I believe he is concentrating on the few rabbits and ringnecks on the area. I have seen several places where ringnecks have been killed. From all appearances I would say that nearly all of the ringnecks killed were hens."—Game Protector Maynard R. Miller, Honesdale, January 1946.

---

"On January 23, while looking after a complaint about dogs chasing deer in the vicinity of Penn Haven Junction, I came on a pack of dogs that were chasing a deer. There were six dogs in the pack—all mongrels—and it took the best part of a day before I was able to clean them out. None of these dogs were licensed, and from their appearance and condition I believe they were living in a wild state."—Game Protector W. C. Ackey, Weatherly, January 1946.

---

"I am surprised at the amount of game we have left. There are gray squirrels on ridges and other places in Mifflin County, where I never saw them. Foxes are very plentiful, and sportsmen are doing all they can to clean them out. I get calls almost every day about dogs chasing. Upon investigation, I find they are with fox hunters."—Game Protector R. E. McCoy, Lewistown, January 1946.

---

"There is a fox trapper in this District who is using a type of sand that does not freeze and he has taken several foxes during the time that the snow was off the ground and freezing temperatures prevailed. His big trouble was that the foxes' feet froze and were twisted off."—Game Protector Levi Whippo, Parker's Landing, January 1946.

---

"The heavy, wet snow of late November broke down a lot of aspen and this, coupled with an abundance of acorns, has been providing plenty of food. I had the opportunity of making a good midwinter survey of the south-east corner of my district in the Slate Run country—Buck, Bear and Cedar Mountains. In this section there are not very many deer or foxes. I saw two wildcat tracks, but no signs of grouse."—Game Protector Warren W. Ohlman, Galeton, January 1946.

"During the past hunting season a great many complaints were made by the hunters about the scarcity of rabbits and squirrels. Some of these same individuals, while carrying on a feeding program, report an abundance of game, especially squirrels. They are of the opinion that the squirrels have moved in."—Game Protector Joseph S. Checklinski, Newport, January 1946.

---

"The fox hunters have been having much success during the past month. Most of the clubs are holding fox hunts. Trappers are still catching some foxes, but the cold weather has slowed them up somewhat. While hunting a couple weeks ago in Daugherty Township along Brush Creek we found a nice covey of quail along the edge of a cornfield. Making inquiries around the western side of the county regarding any sick or rabid foxes I found that several foxes have been found dead in the fields during the small game season, in the same general territory that the sick foxes were reported early last summer. I had lunch last week with a man who said that his two brothers from Negley, Ohio (which is only a short distance from Ohio Township) were hunting foxes and the one they killed was so poor and mangy that they left it lay in the field. Residents of Ohioville were in there last week and could not find any fox signs in the snow. Last year this same area had an over-abundance of the animals. It could be possible that rabies has become prevalent in this section. If it has, I look for a sharp decline in the fox population by next summer."—Game Protector J. Bradley McGregor, Beaver, January 1946.

---

"I have been using my bird dogs to assist in locating quail, but find they have been almost exterminated in various parts of the district."—Game Protector W. T. Campbell, Franklin, January 1946.

---

"Although there have been a great many foxes killed during the fall and winter, officers report foxes are very plentiful over the entire division. We have probated a number of foxes that have been shot either during the small or big game season while the men were hunting for other species. In order to control the fox population, it will be absolutely necessary to destroy as many foxes during the spring as possible and put on another campaign next fall."—Game Protector William J. Davis, Huntingdon, January 1946.

---

"Noticing the bark being peeled from the trees standing in the headwaters of Ontelaunie Dam, Game Protector Rickert, Deputy Holt and myself got a boat and investigated. We found the culprits were muskrats. Some of the trees are peeled as high as a foot above the water.

"I never saw as many field mice as there are this winter. The predators would be doing a fine job if they fed on the mice and left the game alone. There are very few weasels in this section this year."—Game Protector E. J. Turner, Centerport, January 1946.

*(Continued on Page 28)*

Charlie Hobson and three of his best pals.

Photo by Swoger Studio.

Colin M. Reed, President, Southwestern Division of the Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs presenting plaque award to Mr. George Tipton who represented the absent guest of honor, Charles R. Hobson. Frank Rutledge, President of the Allegheny Sportsmen's League, center; Harry A. Sherman, Toastmaster, right center; David L. Lawrence, Mayor of Pittsburgh, extreme right.

## CHARLES R. HOBSON HONORED AS FOUNDER, ALLEGHENY COUNTY FEDERATION

Honoring its founder, Charles R. Hobson, th Allegheny County Sportsmen's League celebrate its twenty-first birthday on February 19.

Enthusiastic hunters and fishermen with thei wives and friends filled the Grand Ball Roor of the William Penn Hotel in Pittsburgh to it capacity to celebrate, dine and be entertaine in the outstanding event of the year.

The evening, a huge success, was started o by the Maurice Spitalny thirty-piece orchestra From the Ball Room Tap Time Show went out ove the KDKA network for its 413th broadcast. Th WWSW network broadcast the speeches of Ros L. Leffler, president of the Game Commission David L. Lawrence, Mayor of Pittsburgh; John J. Kane, Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners; Colin McF. Reed, Ex-President o the State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs; an Mrs. J. Charles Runk, Chairman of the Conservation Committee of the Federation o Women's Clubs.

Harry A. Sherman was toastmaster, and th invocation was given by Rev. W. S. Stoddar of the Homestead Presbyterian Church. Tha Grand Old Man John M. Philips was presen and was presented a plaque commemoratin his 85th birthday.

Other speakers included: Frank J. Rutledge President of the Allegheny County Sportsmen' League; Samuel Trachtenberg, General Chairman of the banquet; Cecil E. Busby, Presiden of Sportsmen's Association; George Tiptor Representing Charles R. Hobson; Herb B Cahoon, Secretary Pittsburgh Kennel Club; Dr Ivan D'Sturbance (Luke Barnett), Director o Conservation of Slovenia. Bob Ford's illustrate lecture on Pennsylvania Wildlife concluded th big event.

The only regrettable item of the occasion wa that the guest of honor was unable to b present because of an extended illness. However, his friends, admirers and fellow sportsmen paid homage to the unselfish and tireles energy of this true conservationist in spite o his absence.

Always intensely interested in wildlife conservation and sportsmanship and movement to better these causes, he called together various active leaders to meet in Homestead o February 19, 1925 to form the Allegheny County Sportsmen's League.

---

The Lancaster County Sportsmen's Associatio admitted 73 new members to its roll of 1080 a a Washington's birthday party on February 20 The new memberships were the result of a contest of which Donald Reynolds won first prize fo bringing in 24 new members. Runner-up in th contest was O. C. Eiresman with 18 new membei Plans for raising 500 pheasant chicks wer made at this meeting.

---

The Cocalico Sportsmen's Association plan t build another dam on the small Cocalico Creel this spring and summer. The dam they built o the large Cocalico Creek in 1944 has improve fishing 75%.

---

This constantly growing club now boasts a membership of over 300. These men spent ove $500 for rabbits to stock in the district. They conduct feeding programs whenever necessary These boys are "on the beam." Congratulations!

---

The Rayburn Township Rod and Gun Club which recently added 187 new members in on month, carried on an active feeding program during the past winter. They built shelters for game in the woods of their district, and also constructed feeders which they replenished with game food every Sunday.

The York Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America held an outstanding meeting on Tuesday, February 19. Dick May of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service addressed the meeting and presented a plan for the permanent development of Waltonian Acres utilizing the latest practices developed by his organization. He presented an aerial photograph with slides and data for planting for wildlife and beauty.

The York Chapter also sent cards to all its members on which they were asked to write their favorite outdoor activity and name the committees on which they would prefer to serve. This is a good idea. It gives each member an opportunity to say what he likes, and makes for a happier organization.

---

Last Memorial Day the Ravers Gap Sportsmen's Club of Woodbury, Bedford County, dedicated a monument of native stone in memory and in honor of the boys from the community who served in World War II. In the early fall the club raised a fund of more than $500 to purchase a bronze plate containing the names of all World War II servicemen from Woodbury Boro and Woodley Township.

---

The Western Reserve Fish and Game Protective Association, Shenango Valley Chapter, Inc., organized September 25, 1935, lists as its first aim the promotion of conservation and propagation of the wildlife and the fishlife of our woods and streams, and to protect at all times, in a legal and just manner, the interests of all true sportsmen. Their second objective is to create and foster a fraternal spirit among the sportsmen, coordinating their interests and unifying their actions toward the general improvement of wildlife and fishlife sports conditions. This club also expects to accomplish by precept and example the highest standards of sportsmanship, and to respect the rights of landowners at all times; to employ educational means of enlightening members and the general public as to conditions of wildlife and its habitat, fishlife and its waters, and to teach safety rules in all activities; to engage in exhibitions of skill with rod, gun and dog; to hold annual field trials for such exhibitions; to affiliate with and support the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs; and to cooperate at all times with the State Fish and Game Commissions and their respective field officers.

These are worthy objectives.

The club has also figured out a way to reward faithful members. In recognition of consistent service to the organization throughout any entire year, the executive board of directors awards a certificate known as the "Order of Merit." For each additional year of service, holders of the award receive a service bar which may be pasted on the original certificate. When members have received a total of ten awards during consecutive years or otherwise, they are awarded a stainless steel "Order of Merit" mounted on a hardwood base.

---

The 13th annual smoker and goodwill meeting of the Central City Sportsmen's Association, one of the largest groups of its kind in Somerset County, will be held Monday evening, April 1.

This group deserves a big hand for its interest in the predator control program. It is staging a drive to rid the district of foxes. Eddie Pollock, one of the members, already has bagged 84 of the wily creatures and Carl Ripple has shot 47.

---

The organized Southern Federation of Coon Hunters Associations recently coordinated plans for the holding of 26 field trials for coon-hunting dogs within the next nine months in Cambria, Somerset, Bedford, Indiana and Blair Counties. Included in the general objectives of the federation are the propagation of fish and game and the general betterment of sports.

An officer of the Cambria County Coon Hunters Association said that as many as 75 trained dogs have been entered in field trials which his organization has held in the past in the Johnstown community and that attendance of dog owners, handlers and spectators at the meets has been as high as 500 on occasion. He expressed the opinion that in the territory covered by the Southern Federation of Coon Hunters Associations there are at least 250 dogs which are continuously under training for coon hunting and two or three thousand sportsmen who specialize in this branch of outdoor sport.

---

During January 1945, when winter winds sent temperatures downward and piled snow in deep drifts over wooded areas, several citizens of Addison Boro learned that a herd of 17 deer were marooned on the ice of the Youghiogheny River. Twenty-six men rallied to the rescue and were successful in saving 4 of the marooned animals. The other 13 drowned in the icy waters.

The men who took part in this rescue then decided that something should be done about

*(Turn Page)*

Photo Swoger Studio.
John M. Phillips, well known conservationist and former member of the Game Commission, with Conservation Award presented in his honor.

Photo Swoger Studio
Ross L. Leffler, President of the Pa. Game Commission, delivering one of the prineipal testimonial addresses in honor of Mr. Hobson. Left, John J. Kane, ehairman County Commissioners, and center, Samuel Traehtenberg, general ehairman of banquet.

Photo by M. F. Farabaugh, Carrolltown, Pa.
Members of the Tri-County Beagle Club, Cambria County, in front of their club house.

## WASHINGTON COUNTY FOX HUNTERS ACTIVE

Photos by Delbert Batcheler

One of the several platoons. They load up with ear corn which is scattered for wildlife during the hunt.

The Pigeon Creek Sportsmen's Association held its annual fox hunt February 3 in the Cokeburg area of Washington County. Some 200 sportsmen representing 15 clubs from 29 various towns in Washington and adjacent counties participated. Guy Young, Secretary of the association and his committee did a first class job in making the event a great success. The various sportsmen assembled at Cokeburg and were dispatched in platoons to the different sections where the hunts were conducted, from 9:00 a. m. to 3:00 p. m. Each platoon was made up of approximately 20 men and sufficient dogs to give the boys plenty of action in the field. The kill for the day netted 9 foxes, with many more that broke away or holed up. The event was climaxed by polishing off some 100 pounds of baked ham and other refreshments at the headquarters building established for the affair, followed by the awarding of prizes for the foxes taken. The club has accounted for over 60 foxes so far this season and the boys have had plenty of fun and action while afield. Incidentally, they "kill two birds with one stone"—in addition to controlling Br'er Reynard and his family, they load up their pockets with ear corn supplied by the local Game Protector, and feed game while in the field.

---

Paul Kelty, a member of the Cochranton Antlers Club recently caught an odd one. It was a full-sized muskrat with a rubber collar. Squeezed tightly around the back of the muskrat's head and front feet was a can rubber. It had evidently been there for some time, since it had almost grown into the animal and had made a definite mark around the pelt.

Nearest correct explanation of the freak situation, according to Mr. Kelty and his fellow clubmembers, is that the muskrat as a baby had been nosing around a glass jar of canned goods. It had been able to get its front feet and head into the can and out again, but in the process, it kept the can rubber.

feeding game, to prevent other woodland tragedies and the following day, in the Addison Borough Community Building, the Yough Game and Fish Association was born.

During the year this club of 26 has grown to include approximately 158 members. Members have distributed 700 pounds of scratch feed and 15 barrels of corn. This amount included one barrel of corn and 100 pounds of scratch feed donated by the Game Commission. The feed was placed at various points where wild game could readily find it.

The association ordered and received 420 ringneck chicks in May 1945. Of this number, 154 were raised to the age of 11½ weeks, at which time they were released. The club also received from the Game Commission 19 quail, 18 pairs of rabbits and 10 pairs of ringnecks.

Through efforts of the association, an investigation was held to determine the source of sulphur found in the Yough Dam. This proved to be from seepage of a mine which was later sealed. It is now possible to stock this dam with fish. Hence, approximately 3800 bass were stocked in the dam, and 4300 legal sized trout and about 3300 fingerlings were stocked in White's Creek.

Various lectures and motion pictures added educational value to many of the meetings throughout the year. Refreshments served at the meetings gave members a chance to socialize and become better acquainted.

A remarkable fact concerning this club is the amount of work that has been accomplished with very limited resources. The total amount of cash handled during the year was only $170.85.

As a result of the club's activities during its first year of existence, the majority of hunters of the community voiced the opinion that each species of game appeared to be more plentiful. Each of them agreed that there had been no illegal or out of season hunting. Most of them stated that the deer season had been very good, thus proving the value of conservation and protection of our wildlife.

---

The Huntingdon County Game, Fish and Forestry Association has secured a permanent location to carry on its various activities. This conservation group recently purchased the old Stauffer farm on Warrior Ridge in Walker Township, 4.3 miles south of Huntingdon along Route 26.

The 180-acre property is ideally situated for the association's purpose. For the past several years this club has leased 20 acres of ground on Piney Ridge for its skeet field, trap shooting, rifle range, game food plot, victory gardens, picnic grounds and a place to hold field trials, dog shows and other outdoor events. A pheasant rearing pen is located in Henderson Township. The members are enthusiastic over securing a larger place where a more extensive and varied program can be carried out.

Plans have been projected for a dog training area which will also make it possible to hold field trials for rabbit dogs, something that requires a 100 acre plot. Reforestation, game food planting and game cover improvements can be practiced on their own ground.

It will be possible to build up a program of instruction and training for junior sportsmen and make available the facilities of the Club to the Boy Scouts and other such groups interested in the development of the youth of America.

---

Because of a fatal accident in the district, the Charleroi Sportsmen decided to install a Junior Rifle Group to teach boys the correct methods of handling guns, both on the rifle range and in the fields. The club expects to teach the youngsters safety and knowledge of firearms, and thus hopes to avoid further accidents among minors.

---

Here's what one member of the Red Bank Valley Sportsmen's Association did during the year to improve hunting and fishing.

Beginning the first of the year, this particular sportsman spent 18 hours getting feed and feeding game with mileage amounting to 132 miles. With three other members of the association he spent three hours on a trip to Bellefonte to meet Fish Commissioner French and to insist on more fish for Clarion County. He made a trip to Rimersburg and another to Foxburg as a delegate to the County Council of Sportsmen's Clubs with mileage amounting to 68 miles.

He met the fish truck three times to stock fish in Tom's Run, Roby Creek and Mill Creek, traveling 162 miles. He spent 132 hours building pheasant pens and attending to pheasants with 462 miles traveled. He also made a trip to Jordon State Game Farm with two other members of the club to get day-old pheasants. He spent 52 hours building and attending the Sportsmen's exhibit at the Farmers and Merchants picnic with mileage amounting to 96 miles.

He spent 16 hours and traveled 124 miles getting foxes that had rabies and shipping them to Harrisburg for tests, spending $4.62 for express and telegrams. He spent 10 hours and traveled 130 miles in picking up and releasing rabbits trapped by Boy Scouts. He also released four crates of rabbits shipped in, spending three hours and traveling 42 miles.

He traveled a total of 1216 miles and spent 241 hours, plus various other lesser activities too numerous to mention. He did all this for the benefit of hunters. Several other members did just as much, with no reward except what game they were able to bag and fish they were able to catch, but no record was kept of their activities.

The achievements of such public-spirited men should be a challenge to each and every sportsman in the State.

---

The Armstrong County Sportsmen's League held its Sixth annual banquet on Thursday, February 21 at 7:00 P.M. in the Lutheran Parish House, Kittanning. Hon. J. Frank Graff acted as toastmaster. The program included addresses by Seth Gordon, Executive Director of the Game Commission, Charles A. French, Commissioner of Fisheries and other guests prominent in sportsmen circles. Music, a turkey dinner and songs completed the evening entertainment. A special welcome was extended to returned service men.

---

The sportsmen of tomorrow are being made today. Therefore the Clinton County Fish and Game Association has taken its activities into every school of its area. There activities are:

1. Presented "My Land and Your Land" booklets.
2. Subscription to PENNSYLVANIA ANGLER.
3. Subscription to PENNSYLVANIA GAME NEWS.
4. County Hunt Safely Essay Contests. A total of 188 essays were submitted.
5. District Game Protector Arthur G. Logue of Coudersport gave fox trapping demonstrations and Great Horned Owl calling demonstrations to over 1500 interested students and sportsmen of the county.
6. Rabbit trapping project of Boy Scouts in City of Lock Haven.
7. Four of ten awarded hunting and fishing prizes for 1945 have been won by students.
8. Students stocked fish on Saturdays and holidays.

The Association's annual membership drive has been advanced from April 1 to February 1, 1946. Any sportsman who sells 25 memberships in the Association for 1946 will be given 6 rabbits to stock in his favorite hunting grounds in Clinton County. Prizes of a Woolrich hunting coat and Woolrich hunting shirt have been donated by Charter Member E. C. Tobias. The member who sells the greatest number of memberships will receive the coat and the member who sells the next greatest number will receive the shirt.

Members who desire any of the following activities, or any other activity, were asked to please state their desires either at the annual meeting or by proxy:

Willing to Raise Ringneck Pheasants
Fox Hunts in February and March
Help to Stock Fish or Game
Member of a Definite Committee
Wildlife Feeding Program
25 Memberships to Sell
Sportsmen's Picnic
Annual Banquet
Trapshooting Range
Educational Progress

Above is the pheasant pen of the Millrock Rod and Gun Club containing some of the 163 pheasants reared and released in Lebanon County.

Photo by Deputy Game Protector Alvin S. Gindlesperger.

The Patton Sportsmen's Club sponsored a fox hunt recently at which over 250 men and one woman turned out. Two red and two gray foxes were bagged and more would have been there but the roads were so icy the watchers couldn't get to their posts in time. It was 10° below at 9:00 a. m. Above coffee is being served.

Photo by Ellen A. Dietrich.

Members of the Montgomery County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, as they help the Game Commission to release pheasants on Farm-Game projects. These areas in Montgomery County alone now total more than 26,000 acres on which the farmer and the sportsman cooperate in a food and cover program for small game.

---

A Charleroi sportsman came out on top in a recent fox hunt held in Washington County. First prize went to Warren Wright of the Charleroi Sportsmen for a 12 pound 3 ounce red fox. Six other foxes were killed during this exciting hunt in which 181 men from 29 different towns in Western Pennsylvania participated.

---

The second largest Sayre Sportsmen's Club banquet on record, with nearly 750 attending, was held recently in the Sayre High School Gymnasium. At this meeting officers were elected for the coming year, prizes were awarded, and movies were shown. Highlight of the evening was a very interesting address by Seth Gordon, Executive Director of the Game Commission. He told the Sayre sportsmen about the expansion of the game farm program, and gave data on the drive against red foxes. The banquet, as a whole, was considered a great success.

---

Commissioner Ben Williams praised the Central Montrose Sportsmen's Club at a recent meeting for the good work they are doing on the predator control program. Susquehanna County has the highest fox kill to date. Other speakers at the same meeting discussed game conditions throughout Susquehanna County. Movies on the safe carrying of firearms were shown, as a climax to the evening's program.

*(Continued on Page 30)*

# The Forester's Stake in Game Management

(Continued from Page 5)

Farm-game cooperative projects are productive of good hunting. They are well stocked, the cooperating landowners take an interest in the game and are subsequently rewarded by the protection from careless and unscrupulous hunters.

tically all administrative roads through its lands makes it too difficult to reach choice hunting or fishing grounds. We are of the opinion that wildlife cannot stand up under present-day pressures if every remote section becomes as easily accessible as the neighborhood butchershop.

State Forests of all the States here represented were acquired for designated objectives with funds appropriated from public tax monies, while Pennsylvania's State Game Lands were purchased with funds contributed by more than 600,000 licensed hunters to be managed primarily for the production of game crops and an assured place for the public to hunt. It is, therefore, essential that the lands purchased with funds provided by the hunters be managed in accordance with the best known practices to produce abundant game crops. The growing of other forest products, and the use of the game lands for permissible public purposes not related to hunting and fishing, are secondary.

*Long-Term Management Plans*

Practically all forest lands acquired by the Game Commission had been lumbered by the previous owners shortly before their purchase, a condition which provides the best food and cover conditions for all forest game species except squirrels. Nevertheless, during the past few years large quantities of valuable lumber and other wood products have been cut from the game lands to aid the war effort; more than 13,000 acres will be cut-over this fiscal year. Over $200,000 have so far been deposited in the Game Fund from stumpage fees paid by the operators. This indicates that many of our tracts at the time of purchase contained considerable timber, and at an average price of $3.73 per acre they were a good public investment.

In the Commission's lumbering operations it is a fixed policy to prohibit timber cutting within one hundred feet of stream banks, or within a like distance of heavily travelled public highways, so as to benefit fishermen on one hand and to please the esthetic eye of highway travelers on the other.

Until recent years our management efforts consisted principally of maintaining refuges, boundary lines, and necessary fire protection roads. During the war period we took advantage of the lull in operations to re-study the whole situation and to plan management activities as far into the future as possible. As rapidly as available help can do such a big job, each tract is being studied to determine what improvement and future management practices shall be applied; where and when timber shall be removed to improve food and cover conditions for wildlife; and where water impoundments can be made for waterfowl and fur-bearers as well as to help conserve stream flow and improve fishing conditions.

Our Commission is definitely of the opinion that the forest growth on State Game Lands must be managed on a short rotation basis, and is now planning to cut approximately five per cent of its holdings annually. This will require careful advance planning to obtain maximum benefits for wildlife.

Early in the war period a special postwar reserve was started. It now amounts to a million and one-half dollars. The estimated requirements for the proposed development program aggregate $5,000,000, and will be executed over a period of five to ten years, with hunter's license revenue.

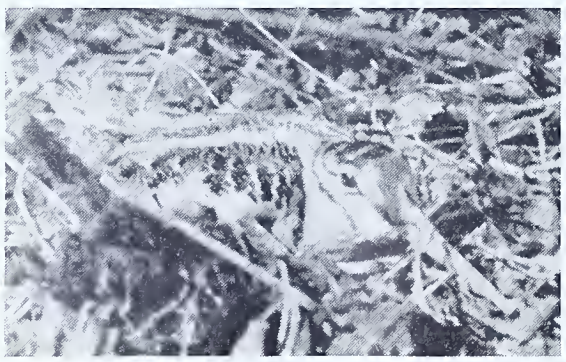


Photo of nesting woodcock taken by Deputy Game Protector Laurel Swanson, Titusville, shows how effectively the timber-doodle blends with its natural surroundings.

*Many Unknown Factors to Solve*

What the local forester should know about game management comprises a long list of things concerning which our knowledge is limited because the application of wildlife management techniques is a science in the making. We already know, however, that many forest practices of the past are not conducive to large annual wildlife crops. For example, game does not thrive in vast stands of timber approaching maturity, especially not in solid stands of conifers. It is safe to say that we have accumulated a greater list of things which should not be done than we have of techniques which will assure maximum annual game crops.

In Pennsylvania, with its fifteen million acres of forest lands, enormous areas were lumbered about the same time. This means that much of our forest country is covered with even-age stands of timber which is just beginning to approach merchantable size. Sizeable portions of this vast forest domain at present provide a very unsatisfactory home for wildlife. Where this condition prevails one of three things happens: The game cannot produce a normal crop of young, or it moves to better feeding grounds, or much of it perishes during severe winters. Temporarily, we are going through a difficult period, much in the position of the chap who, in commenting upon the Mississippi, said it was "too thick to drink and too thin to plow." It is hoped that recently developed uses for wood products will encourage heavy thinning operations and thus provide a solution to the problem.

One of the things we do know is that if a given area is to be kept attractive for wildlife all the old fields and other open spots should not be planted to trees. Wild creatures need numerous open, sunny spaces and edges adjacent to dense cover. Where planting must be done we recommend intermixing deciduous trees, particularly those species which furnish food for game and other wild creatures. Young coniferous stands furnish dense shelter, but supply no food other than insects; in about ten to twenty years they provide little or nothing of wildlife's requirements; no low-growing shrubs, vines, and so-called weed species can exist; and such areas become biological deserts.

*Too Many Roads Should Be Avoided*

We know also that open roads leading into every section of our forests make them too easily accessible to hunters, anglers, and other recreationists; they also can become an administrative burden. We need to reserve as a wilderness considerable areas where those who want to taste of Nature's sweets must do it on foot, not by auto. There is a serious question whether it was wise to build as many roads as we did during the CCC days, because forest employes must now devote too much time to maintaining them instead of doing other essential work, including desirable improvements to benefit wildlife.

Some of you may take the position that forest roads simplify protection from forest fires. Many others feel that opening roads into the heart of every forest region inten-

sifies the fire menace because so many autoists, picnickners, etc., have not yet learned to be careful with fires. The question is debatable, but we are inclined to feel that too many roads should be avoided and motor travel limited to main stem roads.

*The Fire Question Haunts Us*

This brings up another point: Quite often it has been stated that hunters and fishermen are responsible for a majority of the forest fires. We believe this is a faulty accusation; hunters and fishermen on the whole are far more careful in that respect than are most other groups.

In some quarters there has developed in this State, and elsewhere, the feeling that since there is no ready market for the forest growth which is shading out game food and cover it should be removed from numerous sizeable areas by what is commonly referred to as "controlled burning," and devote them to the development of food and shelter for game. It has been most difficult to keep this sentiment from getting out of hand because it is claimed that "considerable areas of the land will never produce timber anyhow."

We began intensive research studies on this subject but had to suspend them for the duration. Whether we like it or not, many agree with Harold Titus, well-known Chairman of the Michigan Conservation Commission, who in his recent widely distributed article "Timber and Game—Twin Crops" says: "It is not unreasonable to believe that in the future foresters and game managers may cooperate more fully regarding the use of fire as a means of maintaining openings in forests where the growth has attained no commercial value and in consequence would be too costly to remove by any other method."

We, all of us, foresters and game managers alike, might just as well face this issue squarely, and jointly make honest efforts to devise and apply practices which will give wildlife a break on the forest lands, without needless sacrifice to timber production. Otherwise, we cannot long hope to stay the demands of those who insist that we apply the torch to the forests for the purpose of increasing game food and cover.

*Jurisdictional Lines Need Not Delay Action*

As Titus has well said: "In the management of forest-type game, professional and jurisdictional lines between game and forest specialists are already blurred and indistinct. The interests of the two groups overlap and the gears of their organizations naturally mesh. What is good for the objective of one is, in the broad sense, also good for the other."

We must not permit jurisdictional lines to delay action. Some say: "Be patient! Sustained yield logging will in the near future solve the problem." I regret to say that in our opinion sustained yield logging alone, as usually applied, will not accomplish the desired objective from the standpoint of the wildlife enthusiast. It rarely removes enough of the crown canopy to provide the open edges and to encourage the development of berries, shrubs, and other food and shelter essential for wildlife.

While you as foresters may object to clear cutting, if food and cover are to be provided in abundance for wild creatures, and widely distributed, use of the small block cutting method is definitely desirable. Such units should usually be not less than fifty acres in size and scattered in such a manner that maximum wildlife benefits will accrue.

Instead of costly replanting of the kind done in the past, it is felt that in many cases reproduction can be obtained by natural seeding from trees surrounding the cut areas, from wolf or den trees allowed to remain, or from strategically located groups of seed trees saved throughout the cut area.

Foresters can also be helpful to wildlife by not being so particular about brush disposal, at least during the first year after the cutting is done. Tops are very useful both as browse for deer and as shelter for other species. If necessary, after the first year this brush could be lopped, scattered, or even burned.

Another way in which the forester can aid wildlife is to save from the axe wherever possible groups of trees in ravines which are chiefly valuable for winter protection or roosting shelter, or those which regularly bear crops of food.

Most of you no doubt have encouraged the establishment of permanent hunting camps on the forests under your jurisdiction. Properly planned this is fine, but many of you have no doubt had the owners of those camps come to you twenty or more years later and beg that you lumber, or allow them to cut, some of the adjacent territory because there is no longer enough desirable food and shelter in the surrounding area for game to justify continuing the camp.

*Organized Support Can Be Obtained*

We all are working toward a common goal. You as foresters, and we as wildlife administrators, should work hand in hand toward the development of game management techniques to be applied; and to discontinue those former practices which are known to work to the disadvantage of the wildlife crop. None of us is so foolhardy as to suggest that we stop growing timber on our forest lands and devote all efforts to the

*(Continued on Page 30)*

Photo by Game Protector Lester Haney.

**Limbs piled in rows during timber operations provide wildlife cover. The cleared areas furnish places for food plants to grow and make travel a little easier for the hunter.**

# BRANT DAYS

(Continued from Page 6)

I tried to soothe him by suggesting that it was all a bad dream but he fairly tore himself out of his chrysalis and the next minute was on the floor clinging desperately to the seat of his pajamas. It seemed that an inoffensive mud-wasp had been hibernating in the sleeping-bag and quite naturally had resented sharing it with anyone else. If Ned had only showed a conciliatory spirit it might have been the beginning of a beautiful friendship. As it was, using language unfit for any young mud-wasp to hear, he crushed the innocent insect, receiving a final sting in his thumb as he did so.

At last, poulticed and profane, he went back to his burrow and immediately thereafter I must have fallen asleep, for the next thing I knew someone was shaking me vigorously.

"Time to turn out," came the voice of Uncle Noah from the freezing dark—"We got to be in the battery by sun-up."

Reluctantly, I rolled out of my warm bed and then pulled Ned out of his.

After a hurried breakfast by a dim and flaring lamp, Uncle Noah and Uncle Billy sculled us out in their garveys to our battery on a little sand-pit in the bay.

Said battery was a board-lined trench five feet deep and filled with water, which Ned and I had to bail out while the uncles set out the decoys and covered the beached garveys with salt-grass and rushes.

When at last the battery was more or less dry, we lowered ourselves down to the duck-boards and began our long wait for ducks, brant or geese.

The sun came up in a haze of rose and lavender and then the coldest rain ever known on the North American continent began to run down the back of my neck until my teeth chattered like castanets and my hands lost all feeling.

Just as I was passing into the coma which sets in before death by freezing, Uncle Noah broke the silence.

"Mark," he said sepulchrally.

"Mark," squeaked Uncle Billy from his end of the battery.

"Mark," hissed Ned in my ear.

I "marked" everywhere, but sea and sky seemed empty.

Suddenly I saw a single black figure skimming over the water and coming toward me at a tremendous rate. As it came within range, I fired at it head-on, but with no results. Swerving, the brant hovered for a moment above the decoys, giving me a perfect broadside shot. Once again I scored a miss, greeted by hollow groans from my companions. Then, as the bird started off, came a bang from Ned's gun which nearly broke my eardrum, but the brant flew cheerfully away. Two hundred yards away the besotted bird began to circle.

"He's comin' back," whispered Uncle Noah. "Ef you both miss him this time, I'll jump out an' kick him to death."

Swinging my gun with the quartering bird, I dropped him at last with my left barrel a good 50 yards away.

"He's a tough ol' bird, all right," remarked Uncle Billy. "It took two men and four shots to down him."

Then came a long wait while Uncle Billy told us about treading for clams. He would walk waist-deep and barefoot through the icy water. When he felt a clam, he would scoop it up with one foot to his hand and drop it into a garvey, which he pushed ahead of him. He received a cent apiece for each clam and sometimes would tread as many as 500 a day. Nevertheless, as I remembered how cold the water was in the battery, I decided that of all the learned professions, treading for clams would be my last choice.

As he finished, the air was full of soft pipings and twitterings and a flock of brown and white birds alighted on a nearby sandbar. We delightedly identified them as snow-buntings in winter plumage, down from the Far North.

Suddenly Ned raised his gun and dropped an old-squaw drake from high sky, a beautiful shot and a beautiful bird, with his long snowy tail, black and white plumage and pink-tipped beak. A little later he got a wary old black duck who at last ventured too close to the decoys.

While one of the uncles went after the duck in a garvey, a pair of brant passed by high overhead. I raised my gun, while Ned laughed loudly.

"You might as well try to bring down the moon," he declared.

However, I knew that the choked left barrel of my hand-made No. 10 Colt had an incredible range. Aiming well ahead of the leading brant, I fired. For a few seconds the pair flew on. Then the hindmost began to waver and finally pitched headlong into the water with a tremendous splash.

"That's the shootenest gun ever I see," said Uncle Noah a few minutes later as he retrieved the bird in his garvey.

After this mid-sky miracle the rain became colder and colder, and Ned finally suggested that one of us go back to the cabin with Uncle Billy and get the fire started and dinner ready, even though he missed some of the shooting. I volunteered, and staggered into the cabin, exuding ice-water from every pore.

While Uncle Billy started the dinner, I hung my dripping clothes up to dry and, in a bathrobe and slippers, tried to get warm again. While crouching over the stove I happened to look out of the window and there, not 50 feet away, was a big brant in the water by the edge of the shore. I grabbed my gun and slipped in a couple of shells.

"Is it all right to shoot brant from the kitchen?" I inquired of Uncle Billy.

"Shoot 'em anywhere," he remarked cheerfully, flipping a flapjack as he spoke.

I opened the door, cocked my gun and as the brant rose, dropped him with my right barrel. The thunderous roar made Uncle Billy bound into the air like a startled gazelle.

"The biggest, fattest ol' he-brant ever I see," he said a moment later as he brought it in.

An hour later, Ned and Uncle Noah came in, nearly perished with the cold, with a couple of sprig but nary a brant.

So ended our trip, with not much game to be sure, but with many memories of that lovely, lonely island.

---

### State Leads In Hunting Revenue

The 48 states collected $15,512,252 from the sale of 8,190,901 hunting licenses in the year ended last June 30, compared with $13,547,152 for 7,505,258 licenses in the preceding year.

Reporting this today, the fish and wildlife service said the number of licenses issued last year set a record for the war period.

Despite travel restrictions and the rationing of gasoline and tires, nonresident hunting licenses jumped from 107,686 in 1943-44 to 154,363 in 1944-45.

Pennsylvania led all other states in revenue with $1,395,841. Others in the "big ten" in revenue included Michigan, $1,198,437; South Dakota, $1,087,122; California, $913,307; New York, $854,827; Ohio, $669,256; Wisconsin, $617,847; Washington, $511,268; Colorado, $510,888; Illinois, $473,339.

South Dakota has the sharpest increase, jumping from tenth place in 1943-44 with $465,602 to third.

## THE SUPERLATIVE SHOOTING DOG

### By Herbert Kendrick

*(Continued from Page 11)*

telligently cover it with the least amount of wasted time and effort. He hunts the birdy places, and passes up lands obviously barren of game, adapts his pace and range to suit the occasion, maps his run so that back tracking and duplicating coverage is unnecessary.

He understands the habits of game and his experience has taught him how birds react under various conditions. He knows how to handle game when he finds it. With head high he moves in fast, confident, accurate, and when game is definitely located he instantly freezes into a stylish, lofty point. This unforgettable posture is retained until the gunners come to flush and shoot. He remains steady to shot and wing. Many hunters allow their dogs to break shot in order that crippled game may be caught before it has time to creep away into hiding. However, a dog is not a truly finished product until he can hold his point until his master orders him on.

Retrieving is essential in gun dog perfection, and the dog that "seeks" dead game persistently, accurately, and proudly "fetches" it to his master in a prompt and tender manner is truly a joy to behold.

The perfect shooting dog is a gentleman in every true sense of the word. He is house and car broken, and causes no embarassment when his master hunts in localities away from home, where frequently the dog must stay in hotels, lodges, or camps. Taught from puppyhood, he is not jealous nor noisy, and remains quiet and content wherever the handler sees fit to place him. Of course, he has never forgotten his early lessons on "coming to heel." He honors his bracemate's point instantly on sight, or at command, and "backs" with the same style as if he were on game himself.

The dog of proven excellence is always obedient. He may be a perfect beauty, possess all the characteristics of perfection in handling game, but he cannot be classed as superlative unless he handles to his master's command. He responds immediately and with pride, because he knows the handler will make his hunting more pleasurable. From puppyhood he has learned brief simple commands, and responds to them without hesitation, and he has been made to realize that his purpose in life is to serve his master to the best of his ability, and he fulfills his mission gladly.

A dog of superlative quality is a treasure well worth time, money, patience, and effort required for his thorough field education.

Continue to send in your dog problems. It is a pleasure to help you with them.

## THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW

The total area burned over each year by forest fires in the United States is about as large as New York State.

New England's wood waste and low grade wood could produce 1,000,000 tons of protein food.

The Ojibway Indian name for the red squirrel is Adjidaumo, meaning, appropriately enough, "Tail-in-the-air."

Photo by Clinton Ganster.

**A dog is not a truly finished product until he can hold his point until his master orders him on.**

## DRY SNAPPING

### By Ted Trueblood

*(Continued from Page 11)*

with the thumb and doubled forefinger of the other hand. Then, push with your gun hand as you pull with the other.

The technique of snapping is the same as for actual shooting. Hold, aim and squeeze the trigger carefully for each shot. If you become careless because you realize the gun isn't loaded you will do more harm than good. You should be able to call every shot, and if you practice assiduously you will discover before long that you are calling more and more in the black. A trip to the range at this stage of the game will show what progress you have made.

It is not the purpose of this article to dwell on proper form—we'll go into it later—but one of the great advantages of dry practice is that it reveals many faults which cause misses, such as jerking the trigger, and flinching. Fortunately, most of them can be corrected more easily by dry snapping, without the distracting noise and recoil of actual shooting, than they can when the gun is loaded.

I suppose I had better close on a word of warning. There are knotheads who attempt to mow down telephone poles with their automobiles; some stupid wretches start across the street without looking left or right, and I suppose there might be a few sub-morons who would pick up a handgun and snap it without looking *twice* to make sure that it is empty—every time.

One of the first rules of safe gun handling is never to point a gun at anything you do not intend to shoot. Snapping practice is an exception—and a safe one—provided you always assume every gun is loaded until you make sure it is not.

## MOLES

*(Continued from Page 10)*

Throughout Pennsylvania the Star-nosed Mole may be found. This is a large mole, averaging about eight inches in length, with a long, scaly tail covered with scanty hair. The coat is black and heavy. In the summer the tail is slender, but in the winter it becomes greatly enlarged and thickened. Its most striking character is its peculiarly developed snout, terminating in a fringe of 22 fleshy processes, forming a wide, naked nasal disk. These processes are symmetrically arranged, eleven on each side of a median line. From three to six young are born any time from mid-April to early June. This mole delights in damp situations, whether they be meadows, fields, woods or swamps, and mucky pastures or slow-moving streams are its favorite habitat. It is as at home in the water as on land, and swims well, using its broad palms as oars and its tail as a scull. Much of its food is secured from the stream bottom, where aquatic insects, crustaceans and small fish may be obtained. When the Star-nosed Mole occurs in the meadows or woods, earthworms provide the staple part of its diet. Because of their aquatic habits they occasionally fall prey to large fish, but by the same token, they are less likely than the other forms to encroach on the rights of man.

On the whole, moles are of little economic importance. Their fur is perishable, and is seldom used for coats these days. Unless abnormally abundant in a specific locality, they do little serious damage to lawns, gardens or meadows, but they are an untiring enemy of injurious insects. Their tunneling aids not only in the irrigation of the soil but also in its formation. Like all of the small mammals they play a significant role in the intricate relationship of man and beast.

# FEDERATION MEETING

(Continued from Page 9)

"Throw it back, Henry. Nobody will believe it anyway!"

tomary, not only in the early settlements here but all ancient capitals of the world.

"About 1660 they had the great plague in England, which grew out of filthy living in conjested areas. You know what happened there. In one year in England about half the entire population was eliminated. They died from the plague, that came from filthy living.

"Today we live in more compact communities because people are obliged to find employment where manufacturing is. Eighty percent or more of the population live in congested areas. They have been obliged to drink water out of streams, and the more congested our civilization is the more necessary streams are for those communities to live. There are a few favored places in Pennsylvania like in mountain areas where they are able to impound clean mountain water and bring it down, but the vast number of communities are obliged to depend for a living on water from streams that have been flowing thru thickly built up communities. What has happened to those streams? The more civilization compacts the more pollution is put into them. As a result of the tremendous increase in manufacturing during the war, and the further concentration of the rural population in industrial areas, you have more pollution in the streams than ever before existed in the history of the world, yet you are drinking that water all the time.

"What in effect is taking place is that you are drinking sewage water as the only water you have to drink. Take Philadelphia and Pittsburgh for the purpose of illustration. You have in Pittsburgh a population of about a million and a half in the metropolitan area, and in Philadelphia approximately twice that much. The drinking water of Philadelphia comes from the Schuylkill River. What is the Schuylkill River? It is in effect an open sewer that flows into Philadelphia. Every community along the river puts its sewage into the Schuylkill River, mostly untreated. They chlorinate that water, and the people depend almost exclusively on chlorinated sewage for drinking water.

"In Pittsburgh we have the Monongahela and the Allegheny Rivers. One part of Allegheny County takes the water on the South Side of Pittsburgh, only several miles downstream from large communities, and ten miles downstream from a community of 150,000, so they are getting the direct sewage of more than 150,000 into a stream out of which drinking water comes from that end of the county.

"On the other side of the county you can exactly duplicate that. In other words Pittsburgh is drinking sewage from cities immediately above it. Down the Ohio River you have Wheeling, and Wheeling has for its drinking water the sewage from a million and a half in Pittsburgh, absolutely untreated before it reaches the Wheeling water treatment station.

*Polio Epidemic*

"We had a tremendous polio epidemic in Pittsburgh several years ago, and in order to safeguard the people they took the victims and put them in the Municipal Hospital. They were segregated so they wouldn't come in contact with the rest of the people, but the sewage from the hospital where they were all gathered was dumped into the Monongahela River. That water was absolutely impregnated with the virus of polio, and the people a few miles downstream were using it as drinking water.

"Here are several facts I would like to call to your attention. I don't pretend to be an expert, but I have had several doctors refer me to the best literature on the subject of how polio is communicated, and as a result of those articles I have come to the conclusion, and I think any of you would have if you read it, that they do not know exactly how polio is transmitted. So far it is a great mystery. From the evidence at hand you can't say it is transmitted as a water borne disease, but one thing you can say, that from the fecal matter of human beings suffering from polio, they are able to isolate the virus after the fecal matter has been in water for a number of days. No doubt it can live in water a long time.

"Does it take any kind of an argument for anyone with children or grandchildren, or friends with small children, to know that it is preposterous to run the risk of having that kind of a deadly virus in water, and don't know how it is transmitted? When, if you take that same sewage and put it through treatment of sewage disposal you can rid it of those germs, absolutely free of contamination.

*Government Study*

"One of the finest studies on streams made in the United States was made by the Federal Government in the Ohio River basin. Several years ago they decided to make that study, and spent about $600,000 of Federal money, never to better service. The Ohio River from Pittsburgh to Cairo is approximately 981 miles long. Over that 981 miles they made tests every 500 feet of water. They took water at the top, the bottom, and at whatever depth they found water, analyzed it, tested it, and have a complete record of what is alive and what is poisonous in that water and the complete contents of it. From an examination of that kind by experts you would be inclined to give some credibility to what they said, whether it is dangerous or not. Here is one of the conclusions at which they arrived, which one expert certified to be factual. That in the early 30's there was a drought in the Ohio Valley. The result was that the volume of water was about one-sixth of the normal volume of that stream over a period of six months in the summer. With the large dams they have, there was slack water way up above Pittsburgh, practically no water running in the Ohio. Dead water was backed up in the dams and in the pools.

"In one of the towns below Pittsburgh they had an outbreak of intestinal flu. It killed people. They had had an outbreak of it in one of the towns high up the river. We will say for the purpose of illustration that the month that they had it was August. The sewage where they had the outbreak was going into the stream untreated. Then they had a day's hard rain, and the result was it washed out the water say from Number 10 dam, and started down river, not a big volume but enough to take the water down to the next dam below. The town below got their water supply out of that dam and it was chlorinated. When the water from

Photo by George R. Layhue.

There are few places where clean mountain water can be impounded for drinking purposes.

this dam had time to get down to the next one they had an outbreak of the same disease, with a very violent illness. Later on in the year toward the fall season when you had more water traveling down, you had incidents of that disease below as the water traveled down the river. That was a very definite, provable example, according to this Government report, of the fact that you are drinking chlorinated sewage and still you are running the risk of certain dangerous things getting by the water as it is treated.

*Chemicals Injurious*

"The other day I read the report of the superintendent of the filtration plant at Wheeling, and as I pointed out, they drink the sewage of Pittsburgh, plus other towns on the way down, so that Wheeling has the sewage of probably two and a quarter million people. He pointed out the increased poisonous load from year to year, constantly magnifies the amount of chemicals necessary to treat the water. In Pittsburgh there are so many chemicals, in addition to the poisonous sewage, that if you have brass water pipes you have a replacement all the time on account of these chemicals. Therefore, although copper costs a lot more, it is cheaper because copper does not succumb to the chemicals. If they are strong enough to eat holes in brass what do they do to your intestinal mechanism? So far as health is concerned I don't think it is necessary for any individual person willing to spend any time to doubt that we are drinking water that is costly and sometimes poisonous and unhealthy, irrespective of how it is treated. So the first and foremost argument in favor of pure streams is the necessity of giving people the kind of water they ought to have if they are going to have the kind of health they have a right to expect. I think that is the first basis upon which we ought to make our argument for good water.

"I was with a group one day crossing the Delaware. A battleship had been brought into the Navy Yard for repairs, and a day or so before we were there it had been repainted by the spraying method. In twenty-four hours after the ship had been repainted, according to Admiral Dramel, one of the great proponents of good water, it had completely changed color as a result of the chemicals and gases given off by the Delaware River where the Navy Yard is located. If you have any doubt of that just go down there some day when it is hot, cross the river and see a tug or boat that stirs up the water,

Photo taken last season near Danville by S. R. Stephens, State Hospital, Danville.
A nice bag for four guns.

and you will find as I have, that it gives off one of the most offensive gases possible to imagine. It is only with the greatest restraint that you can hold your stomach from turning inside out. After it has passed there is so much poison or septic fecal matter in the water you will see great movements as if there is a tremendous fish swimming there. They are merely gases that start to move in the water when they are stirred up.

"The Delaware has over five hundred million gallons of untreated sewage going into it every day. I think it is evident what we are doing to our country, to ourselves, and our industry in Pennsylvania, by allowing these conditions to exist. If you don't know I can tell you, there are a number of recent patents and developments and improvements in things that are manufactured in industry that require a different kind of water than poisoned water.

*Recapitulation*

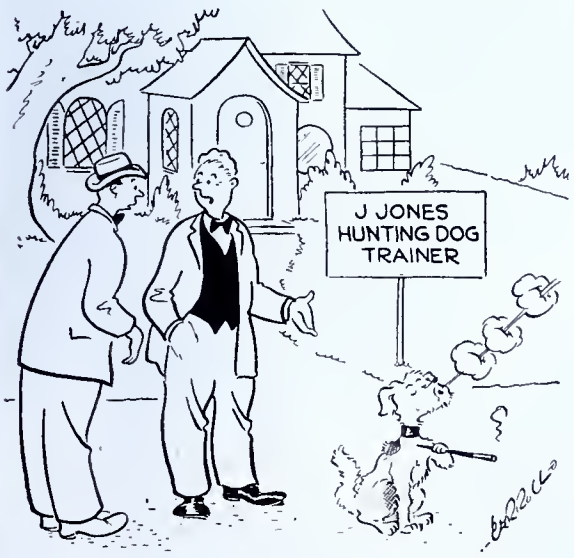
"When we started out on the program to clean up the streams in Pennsylvania the Governor and I had a number of talks on how to approach it. We came to the conclusion that we ought to get as much data as we could, and then talk to some of the top people in industry to see if they agreed on how important it was. It may interest you to know that I sent out a questionnaire with the aid of the Secretary of Mines, to about 150 of the businesses in Pennsylvania and pointed out to them what the danger was as we saw it. Over 90% of the industries we contacted were agreed that it was greatly to the interest and advantage of all people if it could be done, but that it had to be done in a thorough-going way. What most said was, What are you going to do about sewage?

"I made a speech in Philadelphia the day of the Penn-Army Game, and stayed at one of the best hotels, a considerable distance from the river. I was sitting in my room late in the afternoon, it was very warm and the poisonous gases emanating from the two rivers were so nauseating I could hardly stomach them.

"It can't go on, and if there is opposition why the opposition has to be put down. I had a letter from a community the other day. They said, it costs too much. The cost element enters into it of course. I wrote them a courteous letter and told them it was part of the state law, that the streams had to be cleaned out and that there was a way it could be done without increasing the bonded indebtedness of the city. That it was our purpose to do something about it, and that as far as I was concerned I wasn't going to be Attorney General very much longer but I was going to make it a particular order of business to indict them if they insisted on defying the State. There are a certain few individual corporations and municipalities that don't care a thing about anybody else if it is going to cost them anything to make an improvement.

"Of course it is going to cost something to do it. If anyone of us is in danger of a very serious disease, or one of our family is, irrespective of how desirous we may be to retain our cash, the threat of death always makes everyone spend whatever is necessary and do what they can to obviate it or get rid of it. It seems to me this problem in the final analysis is as serious as that. The thing we have to do, if we want to make it effective is for the people to realize everywhere that this isn't a matter of some fanatic trying to do this, it isn't a matter of someone wanting to close down all industry so they can fish, but it is a matter of twentieth century living conditions that demand that something be done about it. I want to say also, as a result of all the contacts I have made all over the country, as I have written to other people in other states, that there is nothing in America today, no single thing outside of making a living, that is stirring up so many people as the necessity of doing

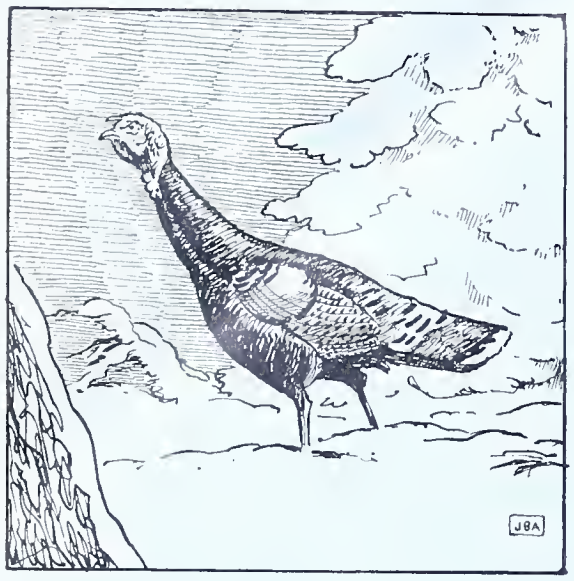
*(Continued on Page 31)*




**"My wife took over my business while I was in the army!"**

# NOTES FROM THE FIELD

(Continued from Page 17)




"So far this year I have had only two reports of rabbit damage. Aside from that I have not set any rabbit traps as they just aren't around to be caught. I recently saw a wild turkey and have had reports of from one to four being seen in several other places throughout this district. I haven't found a dead deer since hunting season and I have been along nearly every stream in this district in the past two weeks. I have seen several deer feeding lately and they appear to be in first class condition."—Game Protector Cecil D. Hancock, Port Allegany, January 1946.

---

"The Clinton Irwin Rod and Gun Club sponsored a deer feeding caravan on the 19th and 20th of this month. It was well advertized and men from Clinton Irwin came in and worked hard at cutting weed trees for deer food. On Sunday, the 20th, men came in and worked hard and willingly. I went to see the results during the following week. It was terrific the way the deer came to the cutting and waded around among the maple and aspen tops and really ate it up. A great number of beds were inside and outside of the cutting. The new sprout growth will be good food for next summer and winter.

"I would like the men who came to work to get due credit and the ones who did not come to feel that they missed something. Lunches were carried by each man and coffee made in a boiler furnished by the Clinton Irwin Rod and Gun Club.—Game Protector Ralph H. Ewing, Polk, January 1946.

---

"I devoted considerable time this month to hunting dogs which were chasing deer on State Game Lands. I also set 6 traps and caught one of the dogs. Another dog approached within a few feet of the traps but not close enough to get caught. Tracks in the snow revealed that one foot was missing. The traps were set close to the carcass of a deer."—Game Protector H. D. Carroll, Thornhurst, January 1946.

---

"I have never seen so many trappers out looking over beaver dams before in my life. One sporting goods store sold 500 beaver traps."—Game Protector Chester S. Siegel, Benton, January 1946.

---

"We have a very limited supply of rabbits left for breeding stock this year. The predator situation is still bad although the foxes have been thinned down in certain areas. Minks have been trapped very heavily due to high prices but the weasel is still with us and our winged predators are taking their toll. Our stray dog problem is steadily becoming worse and I would suggest some remedial action be taken soon in this regard. The grouse supply in this section is good. We have a few ringnecks left but we will have to stock quail and start from nothing. The District is over-populated with gray squirrels."—Game Protector R. P. Schmid, Slippery Rock. January 1946.

---

"Due to the lack of snow to date there has been very little need for artificial feeding in this section. I've had one report of a snowy owl being killed in Somerset County."—Game Protector John S. Shuler, Somerset, January 1946.

"The comparatively light snowfall of the month is giving game in this section a break this winter. I saw two deer accidently killed that were in as good shape as most of those killed during the hunting season. I believe that even if we should get exceptionally bad weather during the remainder of the winter, it would cause little loss."—Game Protector Jack L. DeLong, Portage, January 1946.

---

"So far this winter the game has had a break in the weather and is in good condition. I have had wonderful help from the sportsmen in getting out feed. There are some complaints of stray dogs, but not many.

"The fox trappers are having some success. They are getting a nice amount of foxes and are deriving a lot of sport from it. I find quite a few out hunting foxes with dogs."—Game Protector William G. Matthews, Rector, January 1946.

---

"Many squirrels and a few turkeys are taking advantage of feed placed for them. Grouse pass within a few feet of scratch feed placed for them but do not pay any attention to it. They appear to be able to take good care of themselves. It is too bad more species are not as self-supporting during the winter."—Game Protector Earl E. Smith, Williamsport, January 1946.

"We seem to have quite a few rabbits and I am finding some grouse on my rabbit trapping trips. There seem to be quite a few stray dogs roaming the woods. I have killed 5 dogs, a few crows and a few stray cats."—Game Protector Raymond Leiby, Elysburg, January 1946.

---

"Some fox trappers and hunters are still hard at work trying to reduce the fox population with their traps and dogs. But too many sportsmen are more inclined to offer suggestions on how to control the predator situation than in helping to do something about it. A few days out in the fresh winter air with fox dogs or traps will do anyone good. During January, by using the dirt hole set and anti-freeze, I succeeded in trapping 3 large red foxes in five days. The anti-freeze works fine when the ground is bare."—Game Protector Floyd A. Beck, Venus, January 1946.

---

"D. R. Rishel, Washingtonville, placed the entrails of a sheep he had killed along the line between his land and Propagation Area C-15, Montour County. He thought he could possibly attract some crows. He did. The next morning from his bedroom window he noted quite a large number eating the entrails. He got his gun and carefully opened the window, took good aim and squeezed the trigger. He killed several of the crows. He later went out to the spot where the dead were laying and he found he had *with one shot* killed a total of 18 crows. This, I believe, is a record that is hard to beat. (Mrs. Rishel can verify the 18 with one shot.) Since the close of the season, Rishel had also killed 4 Cooper's hawks and 5 marsh hawks."—Game Protector Bruce P. Yeager, Northumberland, January 1946.

---

"During the month of January the rabbit trapping program has not been too successful due to weather conditions and the traps being new.

"During the month a series of fox hunts were held by various clubs in the county in a program arranged by the Armstrong County Sportsmen's League. The hunts were held as follows: January 6, Rayburn Township Rod and Gun Club sponsored a hunt in Rayburn Township with 200 hunters attending. January 13 the Ford City Sportsmen's Association sponsored a hunt in Burrell Township with 150 hunters attending. January 20 the Buffalo Valley Sportsmen's Association sponsored a hunt in West Franklin Township with 175 hunters in attendance. January 27 the Armstrong County Hunting and Fishing Club sponsored the hunt in North Buffalo Township with 150 hunters attending. After each hunt, the sponsoring club served a lunch at their clubhouse. Although the fox kill was light, the hunters were of the opinion that the hunts were a good thing in getting the various clubs to cooperate with each other and giving the hunters an opportunity to observe game and food conditions after the close of the hunting season. Members of 8 to 10 of the various clubs joined in the hunts."—Game Protector W. J. Brion, Kittanning, January 1946.

---

"We have trapped about 600 rabbits and 75 pheasants to date. There are no quail to be found, but crows and hawks are plentiful. Rabbits are not as numerous as last year. We should have had ferrets to trap them on some of our trapping areas."—Game Protector Ambrose Gerhart, Souderton, January 1946.

---

"The deer population, especially in Rockdale Township, has increased a great deal in the past year. Tracks are everywhere in the snow and farmers report seeing many deer traveling in groups of five or more. Much crop damage can be anticipated from deer this coming season." Game Protector Elmer D. Simpson, Cambridge Springs, January 1946.

---

"It has been a good many seasons since I have seen so many squirrels wintering here. There isn't a section in my district where they are not just plain plentiful. The winter has not been hard on them as they have had a large crop of acorns to fall back on. The larger deer herd also has been taking advantage of the acorns. It is remarkable to see how they dig through the snow to find them."—Game Protector George L. Norris, Warren, January 1946.

---

"The weather was severe during December and up until the middle of January when a break of sufficient duration to relieve the situation occurred. Since that time conditions have been quite good. There are plenty of acorns in most localities. I have noticed more than ever this winter flocks of turkeys following deer. The deer dig out acorns and leave small pieces that are picked up by the turkeys."—Game Protector Elmer L. Pilling, Philipsburg, January 1946.

---

"I had a report of a wildcat on Hickory Creek but I have been unable to find any sign of the cat. There are some gray fox signs in that area and gray fox tracks might be called wildcat tracks if the person seeing them is not familiar with the way a cat walks.

"The snowshoe rabbit is slowly increasing in this section and the fox hunters have reported finding them in places where they have not been seen for a number of years. The kill during the season is high for the number of hunters in the field. Most of the hunters used the still hunting method and only a few had dogs."—Game Protector George H. Burdick, Tidioute, January 1946.

"The rabbit trapping program got off to a good start the first of the year, and with many of my best trappers off work on account of strikes, they are really making records. High among them, so far, ranks Deputy Don Carbone with 357 for January and Deputy Dennis with 185 for the month. Several others with around one hundred and many others with high numbers indicate a total of around 1200 to 1400 in the first 30 days.

"The trappers are all assisting greatly in an effort to far exceed our last year's catch of 1938 rabbits, and with good trapping weather in February, we hope to give the 3000 mark a merry chase."—Game Protector H. C. Sutherland, Greenville, January 1946.

---

"The first of September 1945 a Greene County farmer came to my office and stated that foxes had caused him a lot of damage in the past year by taking lambs and poultry. He also stated that there were practically no rabbits or quail on the farm and he believed foxes had caused their scarcity. I showed him how to set the dirt hole set and to date he has caught 61 foxes He said that none of the traps were set more than a mile from his house. He took 17 foxes in one set.

"Out of the 61 foxes, 38 were females. The last female he caught on January 29th. He cut her open and found that she would have had 8 young. If each of the 38 females caught had been as prolific as this one there would have been an additional crop of 304 more foxes in that immediate section. They would all have to eat to live. Would it be any wonder that the farmer noticed a scarcity of small game and that his poultry and lambs disappeared? A fox eats some fruits and berries but the best authorities I have read list meat as the primary diet of the fox."—Game Protector John Blair, Waynesburg January 1946.

---

"I have seen many deer around the refuge headquarters lately. They all seem to be in good condition. I believe this is due to feeding. When the winter is bad they leave the high ground for the lower swamp land. They have not herded up along the streams this year.

"I have noticed many squirrel and turkey tracks in the snow. I believe we have a good supply of these left over for breeding stock. They are using the corn we placed out for them and should winter very well."—Game Protector Clyde W. Decker, Clearfield, January 1946.

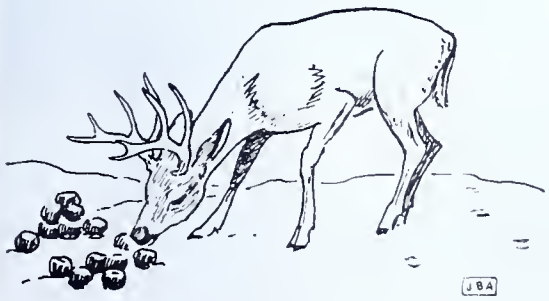
---

"I have been assisting sportsmen's organizations with the organizing of fox hunting parties. Approximately twelve foxes have been killed on these parties during the past month. Various clubs are making these hunts part of their winter activities and have purchased hounds for the sport. Many farmers and landowners have been making favorable comment on the sportsmen's efforts in reducing the number of foxes. These hunts have been held in areas where foxes have been reported to be numerous and responsible for killing poultry. All stomach contents of the foxes killed contained rabbits."—Game Protector Robert D. Parlaman, Charleroi, January 1946.

---

"A local Cold Storage Company provided several truck loads of spoiled apples to be hauled to the mountains for game food. On patrolling sections of the county I find that all deer trails lead to the apple piles—which are no longer piles. The ear corn placed by the apple piles did not seem to be taken much by the deer, but the squirrels like it. I flushed two grouse from some of the feed in Bear Valley and I believe they had been feeding on the apple seeds.

"A fox hunt with members of the Greencastle Association produced no foxes but did provide an invigorating outing and several old tracks were observed. On our return we were treated to an unusual sight—not an act, for I believe a lot of it goes on—when we came onto a man dumping out a bag of grown cats. He made an attempt to recapture them, as he stated they were quite tame, but could only succeed in getting one. The other two had to be shot. The recaptured one was disposed of also."—Game Protector John I. Hendricks, Chambersburg, January 1946.




"While checking my fox traps on Presque Isle State Park on January 10, I found that I had two red foxes and while taking one out of the trap, I noticed that it had a collar around its neck. The collar fit very tightly and it must have been quite an ordeal for the fox to eat properly as it was only with difficulty that you could work your finger between the collar and the neck. The fox was a very large one and in excellent condition, so outside of causing the fox to masticate his food very well it was apparently doing no harm. Just how the collar got around the animal's neck is another unsolved story. No doubt somebody had this fellow as a pet and put the collar around his neck when he was a kit. Later he escaped from the mainland over onto the Peninsula."—Game Protector Clifford L. Ruth, Wesleyville, January 1946.

---

"Bobcats are staging a comeback in this district. I have seen where cats have killed one deer, and possibly a second. One deer was found at the back of Game Land 116-2 and one was believed to have been killed by a cat in the Maple Swamp in Shohola Township.

"Coal trucks on Route 209, still speeding at night, are responsible for the killing and mangling of many deer along this highway."—Game Protector John H. Lohmann, Milford, January 1946.

---

"I expect more beaver trapping this year than we ever had. The sale of traps has been very great. The Oneida No. 4 Beaver Jump Trap, which is made in Pennsylvania, is illegal for the spread of jaws is over 7 inches. Since this trap has been sold throughout Pennsylvania, I think we should inform the general public in a news release in order to save trappers from getting into trouble with the law."—Game Protector George W. Keppler, Meadville, January 1946.

---

"I started to make grapevine release cuttings on State Game Lands, but did not get much of this work done on account of sickness in the family of the man who was helping me. We found a nice bunch of grouse in this section where we started to make the cuttings and by the looks of the tracks the hunters passed up a good place to do some rabbit hunting."— Game Protector Edward Shaw, Leeper, January 1946.

---

"I have seen snowy owls this month on several occasions. I also saw snow buntings several times and evening grosbeaks once.

"I accompanied Officer Keppler and Deputy Guiney on the Keystone Ordinance area to trap rabbits. We took a truck load of traps with us with the expectations of catching a few hundred rabbits. There had been a good tracking snow for two days but we were able to find only a very few rabbit tracks and these were near the abandoned buildings. For every rabbit track there were ten fox tracks. I never have seen anything to compare with it. The foxes were not localized in a few spots but were plentiful everywhere. We found where a fox had killed a rabbit and after eating part of it, buried the remainder in the snow. Another rabbit had been killed and eaten by an owl when just a few feet from his home, which was a woodchuck hole. It certainly would have been a loss of labor to attempt to trap rabbits from that area and also a crime to remove any rabbits from an area that had so few. In fact it would be better conservation to stock some rabbits here if the predators are removed. And all this on a very small game area that had had no hunting for four years, an area on which there was a great abundance of rabbits and ringnecks just two years ago!"—Game Protector R. M. Sickles, Linesville, January 1946.

---

"So far this has been a very easy winter on game, with very little snow and only a few days of ice. Rabbits are showing up exceptionally well since we have had a little snow to track them. A few coveys of quail are being fed by farmers and myself. The ringnecks have plenty of food. There are lots of cornfields where the corn has not been husked and plenty of fields of standing corn; some haven't been husked. Where they have gone over the field with a husker, many ears were left behind."—Game Protector Leo E. Bushman, Gettysburg, January 1946.

---

"Along about the middle of January we had about a week of very mild weather and during this week I observed an unusually large number of rabbits killed on the highways.

"Skunks seem to be about extinct in this district. I have seen the tracks of only one so far this winter. This is quite different from my home county where they are very numerous.

"Quail are very scarce here. I have had reports of only a few flocks being seen and fed. I found two on State Game Lands one day while husking corn. These are the only ones I have observed personally."—Game Protector William R. Overturf, New Castle, January 1946.

"I shot a goshawk that was attempting to kill one of my full-grown chickens. Several people in this section have had chickens killed by these hawks and several hawks have been killed." Game Protector Paul L. Failor, Mt. Pocono, January 1946.

---

"So far the winter has been very agreeable as far as game is concerned. Our deer are in wonderful condition. There has been no time this winter that they were unable to obtain moss, acorns and ground feed. What snow we have had has been light and did not stay too long. There is still an abundance of acorns and the woods really show that the deer know it. Large sections of leaves are uprooted as if hogs had been pastured there." —Game Protector Vern A. VanOrder, Renovo, January 1946.

---

## BIG GAME INCREASES

Big-game animals in the United States have been increasing during recent years at a more rapid rate than the human population, although the present ratio of such large game to people is only about one to nineteen, according to Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

According to a recently completed tabulation of figures received from Federal, State, and private agencies, the populations of all animals classified as big game within the United States totaled 7,148,422 in 1943, compared with 6,748,424 animals in 1941, or a gain of 5.9 per cent. During the same period the gain in the human population amounted to less than 1 per cent.

As an aid to the conservation of the Nation's living resources, the Fish and Wildlife Service began making annual inventories of the populations of big-game animals in 1937. Counts are made while the animals are on their winter range, as near to the last day of the calendar year as possible, although for a few species it has been found better to wait until early spring. Because of the great number of separate enumerations involved, the reports from the 1944 inventory have not yet been tabulated, and the actual taking of the 1945 inventory has not been completed for all species.

The State with the largest big-game population in 1943 was Pennsylvania, with 1,104,655 animals, nearly all of which were deer. Michigan ranked next with 731,407, followed by Minnesota with 631,877, California with 597,625, and Oregon with 584,261. Kansas is the only State that has no big game.

# The Forester's Stake in Game Management

*(Continued from Page 23)*

production of game. We do believe, however, that by sound multiple-use planning, and on selected areas speeding up the cutting cycles, conditions can be greatly improved for wildlife without serious detriment to a future timber supply.

In Pennsylvania public lands comprise less than one-fifth of the total forest acreage. If they are developed to produce better food and all-year living conditions for wildlife many private owners will no doubt be encouraged to apply similar practices.

We firmly believe that if the forester hopes to win greater support in his endeavors, financially and otherwise, he must plan his operations so that the denizens of the woods will be assured the best possible home at all seasons of the year. The public, and especially sportsmen, reacts unfavorably if forest managers plan in terms of future timber crops only and neglect wildlife, or merely give lip service to it. No single large segment of our citizenry will assure such a determined backlog of public support as the sportsmen if foresters demonstrate an active interest in their welfare.

(A Summary of Acreages in Game Management Projects in Pennsylvania appears on page 15.)

**Albino deer killed December 6, 1945 near Portland Mills, Elk County, by James Hayes, Franklin, who appears in the picture. The buck on the right was killed by H. L. "Blink" Buchanon, also of Franklin. Photo by Fish Warden C. B. "Rosy" White.**

**ESTIMATED RECEIPTS FROM SALE OF FURS DURING THE SEASON OF 1944-1945**

| | *No. of Pelts* | *Estimated Total Value* |
|---|---|---|
| Muskrats | 306,437 | $559,265.31 |
| Skunks | 103,207 | 111,510.91 |
| Minks | 7,415 | 77,689.57 |
| Opossums | 49,572 | 13,644.89 |
| Beavers | 1,663 | 52,376.56 |
| Otters | 33 | 377.75 |
| Raccoons | 38,122 | 70,069.84 |
| Weasels | 5,487 | 4,756.31 |
| Red Foxes | 9,460 | 47,842.65 |
| Gray Foxes | 10,230 | 21,958.30 |
| Wildcats | 13 | 32.75 |
| Totals | 531,639 | $959,524.84 |

## FREAK FOUND

A woodchuck with a freak tusk growth was recently killed near Cochranton by Tusky Haizlett's dog. The tusks, or teeth, had grown in such a way that it was almost impossible for the animal to open its mouth. The upper tusks had grown in a semi-circle until the points were pressing against the roof of the mouth and the lower tusks had grown up and over onto the head. The nose was worn short and rough from the 'chuck's constant efforts to feed.

# Horse and Buggy Days

*(Continued from Page 7)*

a camp on a dark night. Dangerous? Ask some of those who got caught.

There are more of them, but this is enough to give you a stream-lined version of some of the present day big game hunters.

It is a far cry from the good old days in the big game woods. Probably a lot of you can remember how anxious you were for December 1 and the opening of big game season, how you prepared two weeks in advance, what a thrill you got when loading your camping equipment on a two-horse wagon and what a ride you took over the bumpy trails to your camp for a 15 day stay.

Little hunting incidents, tales that flew thick and fast around the old fireplace in the evening will never be forgotten. You had the appetite of a horse, slept like a baby, and I dare say never felt better in your life. The only sad event of the trip was when you had to pack up and leave.

You have often heard it said, "We never want to go back to the horse and buggy days. We should forge ahead, keep up with the times." This is very true. But the sooner we get back to the horse and buggy days in the great sport of hunting, the safer it is going to be for all of us.

Here's a bit of advice to you hunters who will invade the big woods for the first time next fall. Get on a roster with a party of good hunters, and you will find the best known method yet to enjoy big game hunting and feel safe.

## CLUB NOTES

*(Continued from Page 21)*

The Littlestown Fish and Game Association recently awarded prizes for their hunting and fishing contests for 1945. These contests have stimulated much interest and it was agreed to hold another contest in 1946.

Winter feeding of game was the reason sportsmen from Audenried, Hazle Village, Beaver Brook, McAdoo and Kelayres met in the Beaver Brook school house and completed plans for the organization of a new club to be known as the Beaver Brook Rod and Gun Club.

The Blair County Revolver League was recently organized in Altoona. Purpose of the league is to stimulate interest among local sportsmen's clubs in pistol and revolver shooting.

The York County Bird Club has just completed a bird house building contest in which 11 special classes of the city school system participated. One hundred twenty-two houses or feeders were exhibited. Through contributions from civic clubs, 10 first prizes of $2.00 each and 11 second prizes of 50 picture bird cards were given.

The fox hunt held on February 4 by the Pigeon Creek Sportsmen's Association was attended by 208 hunters from Washington, Wolfdale, Burgettstown, Monessen, Charleroi, Belle Vernon, Fredericktown, Ellsworth, Bentleyville, Cokeburg, Greensburg and Eightyfour. They brought 22 dogs with them, and managed to kill 7 foxes in spite of bad tracking conditions.

**The above buck killed December 3, 1943 near Smethport by Lawrence Leggett, Sanborn, N. Y., belongs in the Hall of Fame. It had 11 points on the right antler, 7 on the left, 7 "key-ring" points, a 27¾" spread, and was 5" at the base of the left beam and 4¾" at the right.**

## TRUMPETER SWANS

Continuing to win its battle against extinction, the trumpeter swan, largest migratory waterfowl of the North American continent, has increased its population fourfold in the past 10 years until it now numbers at least 301 birds, exclusive of those in the Canadian colonies, according to data submitted to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes by Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.

The latest count showed 60 birds on the Yellowstone National Park and 163 on the Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge in Montana. The remainder were scattered in the general vicinity of these two areas and on the National Elk Refuge in Wyoming and Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon.

In 1935 only 73 of these magnificent birds, which have a wingspread of 8 feet, remained in the United States. In that year the Fish and Wildlife Service established the Red Rock Lakes Refuge, and began the long struggle to save this swan from extinction.

# FEDERATION MEETING

(Continued from Page 27)

something about getting better water for living and in order to make a living.

"It is time to do something about it. It can't be blocked if those who believe in it are willing to fight for it. If you will renew your energy, as you have in the past, I am sure the time is not far distant when the people will look back and wonder why they tolerated the terrible water conditions under which we live."

*General Eric Fisher Wood Tells of English Hunting*

Judge Ladner then introduced General Eric Fisher Wood, native of Pennsylvania, who is an ardent conservationist, and who has done a great deal of hunting and observing in many countries of Europe.

General Wood entered the army as commander of Pennsylvania's 28th Artillery Brigade five years ago. The general said: "As a person, who like all of you, has made shooting and fishing my only recreation since knee-high to a grasshopper, it is only natural that I should gravitate to the nearest sportsmen's meeting.

"There is little game breeding done in England, and then only by very wealthy people renting or owning large estates, who want to put on a shooting party and don't have enough game in the area to do so. In those special cases they breed, raise and release pheasants, usually the day before the shoot.

"Another thing confusing about English game is this matter of fox hunting with hounds and horses. That again is limited to certain areas in England. It is probably the most expensive sport in the world. It takes expensive horses, 30 or 40 dogs or hounds, worth a $100 to $150 apiece, permits or leases with all farmers, persuading the farmers never to fence with wire, and no gate receipts as there are in polo and horse racing. The English protect the fox, but they don't expect to have much small game when they do. Your fox hunters are very few in number compared to the small game shooting areas, which includes all the rest of England and a good part of Scotland.

*No Public Lands*

"We have to recognize two or three differences they have over there. In the first place with them the game belongs to the land. Their land has been cultivated from 500 to 2000 years. There hasn't been any public lands for 1000 years, and over the centuries they have come to the belief, both in public opinion and the law, that the game on the land belongs to the land, and a poacher in England is on the same level as a chicken thief would be with us. The penalties are the same. Secondly, lots of their game goes to market. When I left England in November the English pheasant was bringing 12 shillings apiece at market. We don't sell game in this country. I don't think we should. Our tradition is different. We say the game belongs to the public.

"The lands in England where you find great quantities of small game are under a high state of cultivation. The farms along the east coast look just like Lancaster County, and on the west coast are a little more rolling. They would remind you of the farms between here and Chambersburg going down the main highway between Cumberland and Franklin Counties. The farms on the south of England are very flat, like the farms on the eastern shore of Maryland. In England there are very few forests, no forests of big trees except National Parks, which have of course some of the biggest oaks in the world, but they are monuments. The only other woods are small and poor in quality, because the only place they grow is on land that is poor. The same is true of Poland and Belgium. There are big forests in Germany, pretty good ones in France, but it comes to the same thing as far as small game is concerned, because in Poland, Germany and France they keep these big forests for big game, deer and boar. You find small game in the kind of country where America never looks for it.

"They do not believe in the breeding, raising and releasing of game. They believe that wild game is healthier and better and less susceptible to epidemics, and knows more about breeding itself than man does. They merely handle them. They do that with game keepers, with whom it is a career. He is very akin to the Federal Predator Control agent they use in the far west to keep down the number of panthers and wolves. He is a professional at his game. It is largely hereditary. They get results through the use of game keepers, who look out for the welfare of the game and who's principal duty is predator control.

"They don't believe in bounties. They take the position that trapping or shooting predators is only skimming off the easy cream, that it takes a professional who gets a good salary or wage, who will spend six months getting the last wildcat. I never heard of a bounty anywhere in Europe.

*Know Hawks and Owls*

"Both the owners and the game keepers know their vermin, and all kids know vermin. They know their hawks and owls--good and bad. The game keepers and the owners protect the small owl and give him nesting and feeding while living on the place. In England they know every hawk like our kids know the big types of planes. It is a matter of common interest. There is dough in game for each and all of them. When you start on a shoot the captain of the hunt will say, 'Gentlemen, for those who are not familiar with all hawks and owls let me say to shoot all big owls and all small hawks. Of course we know we must shoot magpies.' It is your duty to shoot vermin. If a pheasant goes up and a magpie goes up the predator comes ahead of the game.

"They do not have cats in small game

Earl M. Parker, Sr., Jefferson County sportsman and bow and arrow hunter, experienced a real thrill when he brought down his first deer with an arrow shot from his 60 pound bow after trying hard for the past seven years.

The big moment of Parker's life came when he sighted 2 deer running toward him about 100 yards from where he was standing. He dropped to his knees in an effort to conceal himself and better identify the animals and noticed that one was a 6 and the other an 8-point buck. They stopped for a few moments to survey the area about 30 yards from where Parker was kneeling and then turned and ran directly away from him. The first arrow was let loose at this time. It struck the 8-pointer on the right side. Another was loosed, but missed the mark. The buck ran with Parker in hot pursuit for nearly 90 yards and stopped. Parker let fly two more arrows. One struck the buck on the left side and the other hit him somewhere in the back. Examination showed the first arrow hit close to the short rib on the right side and penetrated into the heart. The third arrow lodged on the left side and reached the heart also. Parker doubts if more than the first arrow was necessary to kill the buck.

This was not the first deer Parker brought down. He claims 12 to his credit with firearms. He says hunting, to him, is a pleasant pastime but to a distant grandfather it was a serious business. The grandfather of whom he speaks was "Bill Long," known to the early settlers of Port Barnett as the "King Hunter" of northwestern Pennsylvania. "Bill" claimed 3500 deer and 400 bear for his trusty flintlock. Sportsmen will be interested to know that back in those days (1794) William Penn signed a law providing a fee to anyone who hunted more than 3 days at a time.

The Pennsylvania State Archery Association and the National Field Archery Association accepted Parker into their "Big Game Club" and he wears the distinguishing pins from these organizations.—Clayton B. Shenk, Ex. Sec., Penna. State Archery Assn.

country. The employes on a farm are not allowed to have cats. That is the order. No cats are in the lease when they rent.

"They handle the rat and mouse situation with terriers, of which they have more breeds than you can keep track of. They claim these terriers are better on rats than cats. The terrier hunts for sport and the cat for meat—one rat, one day's work.

"Last of all they don't like crows. They say that the crow is a bad actor, and to me he is a little bit like the Nazi tribe; he has a very high order of intelligence and is great on team work, but like the Nazi he has all ten commandments backwards. Their statement about the crow is you can have a crow or a pheasant but you can't have both; take your choice. If you prefer a crow you can have a crow, if you prefer a pheasant you can have a pheasant, but you can't have both. The crow they say counts double. In the first place he competes with the pheasant on the same line of food, and secondly, he takes direct action against the eggs of chicks."

At the conclusion of General Wood's interesting talk President Reed gave a brief summation of Federation activities during the three years he served as its head, brought the group up to date on current conservation matters, heard reports of various committees and appointed others. Among other things he pointed out that the membership of the Federation jumped from 73,000 in 1942 to 93,344 in 1944. He feels a 10% to 15% increase will be effected as a result of returning veterans.

### *Officers Elected*

Officers elected to serve the Federation for the year 1946 were: Oscar A. Becker, Reading, President; Robert Cooper, Connellsville, First Vice-President; Dale Furst, Williamsport, Second Vice-President; and Dr. C. A. Mortimer, Honesdale, Secretary-Treasurer.

## HUNTING LICENSE REVOCATIONS

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The reader in noting the address as given in the following list of names should bear in mind that they are the resident addresses of the offenders, and are not to be applied in determining where the violation was committed.*

*It may also be noted that there are apparent variances in the length of revocations for almost identical violations. Every violation considered for revocation is given a careful analysis, and a full explanation of the features surrounding each case would be entirely too lengthy for publication.*

License Revocations for 1 year terminate August 31, 1947; for two years, August 31, 1948; for three years, August 31, 1949; for four years, August 31, 1950.

*NON-RESIDENTS:*

Andelmo, Donald, 5153 Clement St., Bedford, Ohio, hunting without non-resident license 1 year.

Basso, Frank, 229 Sanford Ave., Kerney, N. J., possessing male deer taken in closed season. 2 years.

Calvarese, Emidio, Kaimensi Road, Marshalton, Dela., (a) hunting without non-resident license; (b) possessing pheasant in closed season; (c) possessing loaded shotgun in vehicle on highway in motion. 2 years.

Fellers, Jacob Tilden, Cygnet, Ohio, killing a doe deer in closed season. 2 years.

Freschi, Albert, 172 Forest Ave., Paramus, N. J., possessing deer unlawfully taken. 1 year.

Goble, Berthier Ira, 1009 West Ave., Buffalo, N. Y., assisting to take and possess a cub bear less than one year old in a closed season. 2 years.

Higgins, James R., 1874 Dresden Ave., East Liverpool, Ohio, hunting without a non-resident license. 1 year.

Higgins, Leonard J., 1874 Dresden Ave., East Liverpool, Ohio, hunting without a non-resident license. 1 year.

Hunsinger, Clinton H., Bulkhead, Elmira, N. Y., (a) hunting without non-resident license; (b) and killing one doe deer. 2 years.

Loetz, Henry F., Sturgis, St. Joseph Co., Mich., assisting to kill a doe deer in closed season. 2 years.

McMinn, James Irwin, R. D. #1, Leavittsburg, Ohio, hunting without non-resident license. 1 year.

Petschulat, Geo. E., Sturgis, St. Joseph Co., Mich., killing a doe deer in closed season. 2 years.

Revicki, William, 337 Spring Valley Road, Hackensack, N. J., possessing deer unlawfully taken. 1 year.

Shattuck, John A., 1004 Richard St., Elmira, N. Y., possessing parts of a deer in closed season. 2 years.

Skrek, Frank, 265 East Lincoln Ave., Rahway, N. J., possessing deer unlawfully taken. 1 year.

Spampinato, Frank, 16 W. 109th St., New York City, N. Y., hunting without a non-resident license. 1 year.

Utter, Leon M., R. D. #1, Branchville, N. J., killing doe deer. 2 years.

White, Robert R., R. D. #1, Barton, N. Y., possessing parts of a deer in closed season. 2 years.

Williamson, Clair W., Lake Road East, Ashtabula, Ohio, killing doe deer in closed season. 2 years.

*RESIDENTS:*

*Division "A"*

Adams, Paul Monroe, R. D. #1, Conowingo, Md., (Lanc. Co.), shooting deer in closed season. 2 years.

Angelozzi, Anthony J., 5618 N. Third Street, Philadelphia (Phila. Co.), killing ringneck pheasant in closed season. 1 year.

Alfano, James, 1240-11th St., Philadelphia (Phila. Co.), possessing female, or doe deer, taken in closed season. 2 years.

Barba, John Cordis, R. D., Doylestown (Bucks Co.), hunting rabbits in closed season. 1 year.

Barthel, Herman Wm., 126 S. 12th St., Allentown (Lehigh Co.), killing ringneck pheasant hen. 1 year.

Behl, Oscar T., 2626 N. Sartain St., Philadelphia (Phila. Co.), possessing female or doe deer taken in closed season. 2 years.

Bigge, Henry C., 1128 Raymond Ave., Bethlehem (Northampton & Lehigh Cos.), possessing parts of deer taken in closed season. 1 year.

Bonawitz, Edward C., R. D. #1, Bird in Hand (Lancaster Co.), failure to tag twelve (12) traps. 2 years.

Bright, Earl H., 124 Jefferson St., Reading (Berks Co.), killing and possessing parts of two ringneck pheasants in closed season. 1 year.

Certo, Carmen Wm., 2830 Sydenham St., Philadelphia (Phila. Co.), possessing protected bird (Robin). 1 year.

Colajezzi, Arthur F., 15 Tague Avenue, Glenside (Montgomery Co.), hunting squirrels without resident hunter's license. 1 year.

Coyle, Joseph, 1348 Birch St., Reading (Berks Co.), killing and possessing ringneck pheasant in closed season. 1 year.

Dalo, Anthony, 2323 N. 10th St., Philadelphia (Phila. Co.), possessing female or doe deer taken in closed season. 2 years.

Fisher, Richard O., 715 Mifflin St., Lebanon (Lebanon Co.), killing a cub bear less than one year old on November 26, 1945. 2 years.

George, Russell R., 1416 N. 18th St., Allentown (Lehigh Co.), killing three hen pheasants. 1 year.

Gianni, Joseph, 237 Wood St., Norristown (Montgomery Co.), assisting to conceal game, 7 pheasants illegally taken. 4 years.

Graeff, Frederick J., 1643 Penn Ave., Wyomissing Hills (Berks Co.), possessing ringneck pheasant in closed season. 1 year.

Hayes, David John, 65 Highland Ave., Norristown, (Montgomery Co.), killing male deer not having 2 points to one antler, spike buck. 2 years.

Helwig, Daniel R., 488 S. Adam St., York (York Co.), aiding in the concealment of hen pheasant. 1 year.

Herman, Melo K., R. D. #1, Lancaster (Lanc. Co.), (a) possessing pheasant hen; (b) hunting pheasants on Sunday; (c) shooting within 150 yards of occupied building. 1 year.

Hixon, Eldon David, Hummelstown (Dauphin Co.), killing ringneck pheasant in closed season. 1 year.

Hixon, Harold Edw., Hummelstown (Dauphin Co.), killing ringneck pheasant in closed season. 1 year.

Johnson, Leon F., Bethlehem Pike, Montgomeryville (Montgomery Co.), possessing a doe deer. 2 years.

Kalb, Robert Ray, 1437 Chew St., Allentown (Lehigh Co.), killing game (rabbit) between 5 P. M. and 7 A. M. 1 year.

Kline, Byrl S., 1635 Penn Ave., Wyomissing Hills (Berks Co.), killing ringneck pheasant in closed season. 1 year.

Kurfurest, Francis, 2049 N. Reese St., Philadelphia 21 (Phila. Co.), (a) hunting without resident license; (b) possessing a loaded rifle in vehicle while in motion on highway; (c) killing male pheasant in closed season. 1 year.

Lauro, Gus, Fornance St., R. D. #4, Norristown (Montgomery Co.), possessing of seven ringneck pheasants in closed season. 1 year.

Lower, Harry, R. D. #1, Elizabethville (Dauphin Co.), possessing parts of a deer unlawfully taken. 1 year.

Martin, Ray Vincent, R. D. #1, Hallam (York Co.), possessing ringneck pheasant hen. 1 year.

*(To Be Continued)*

**Top row: Lawrence A. Bonsal, Willow Grove, with 7-point, 122 pounder taken in Pike County last year near Lake Wallenpaupack; the above photo of the Port Vue Outdoor Sportsmen's Club in Elk County was submitted by Alex Knapp, McKeesport. It looks like a bang-up camp; the happy looking bunch in this photo include Clyde Ament and Jerry Schrite, Millersville; and Joe Weber and "Hen" Orr, of Lancaster, and Barney Orr, Miami, Florida.**

**Second row: F. Merz Seed, Seaside Park, N. J., with nice one taken on Annin Creek near Turtle Point, on December 3 last year; W. L. Peters, Mechanicsburg, with 16 lb. gobbler bagged in Huntingdon County on November 3 last year; Frank Bogadek, Avalon, with 8-point, 200 pounder bagged in Forest County last season.**

**Bottom row: Ted Yost, Palo Alto, with 17-pointer killed December 1, 1944 in Schuylkill County; a 9-point weighing 120 lbs. killed Dec. 12 last year in Warren County. It was the winner of a $47 "point-pool" sponsored by the Corry Rod and Gun Club for the member killing the buck with the most points. A prize of $10.00 was won by Al Holton, Jr., aged 15; left to right are Charles Martin, William and Eddie Halfast, Charles Patterson to whom we are indebted for the photo, and Russell Martin; this photo came to us without a name so we don't know the lucky nimrod or his buddy. It was postmarked Quakertown.**

**Each year the trappers of Sullivan County appear at certain towns designated by the District Game Protectors to have their beaver pelts tagged. At the same time various fur-dealers from Pennsylvania and New York turn out to purchase the pelts. Here you see three dealers measuring up the pelts of one of the group at Lopez, Pa. The trappers realized several thousand dollars for the day, as the pelts were bringing as high as $75.00 for the larger skins.**

# Pictorial

# NOTICE

## TO READERS

As of July 1, 1946, the subscription fee for Game News will be $1.00 for one year, $1.50 for two years and $2.00 for three years, for everyone, residents and non-residents, with a special group rate of $.50 for all sportsmen's organizations that wish to include the magazine as a part of their membership fees, provided such subscriptions are submitted in lots of ten or more.

The purpose of the increased fee is to enable the Commission to provide better paper, better text, and better illustrations and more adequately sustain the magazine financially. You as a reader will benefit tremendously as a result, and we hope you will cooperate.